

Hafa Adai!

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DOJ says CUC could hire executive director that meets requirements

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is capable of hiring an executive director that meets the minimum requirements. It did hire Alan Fletcher, who not only met the requirements but also ensured CUC's compliance with stipulated orders.

This was the response of Bradley R. O'Brien, a senior attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section, to CUC's request to waive the requirements so it could hire Gary Camacho as its executive director.

O'Brien said that Fletcher was instrumental in furthering CUC's partial compliance with stipulated orders—only that his contract was not extended by the CUC board of directors.

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Possible EPA defunding worries BECQ, MINA

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality as well as the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance have expressed concerns regarding the possible abolition of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as previously stated by President Donald J. Trump.

EPA has been providing invaluable funding for government agencies across the nation and the CNMI is no stranger to EPA-funded grants.

BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman told *Saipan Tribune* that BECQ receives grants from several grantors, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Office of Insular Affairs, and the EPA.

According to Rabauliman, BECQ receives about \$2.1 million in grants a year.

"With these funds, we are available to implement the Clean Water Act and regulate pesticides, solid waste, septic systems, and a lot of different

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June Alipio's red 1989 Toyota Hilux with license plate ABK-269 seen here in a file photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pickup truck carjacked, donation boxes stolen

A pickup truck was carjacked in As Lito, while two donation boxes were stolen in Chalan Kanoa over the weekend.

A red 1989 Toyota Hilux with license plate ABK-269 was carjacked on Sunday

afternoon, while the donations boxes of the American Red Cross and Karidat were stolen from a restaurant on Friday and Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to release in-

formation about the two incidents to the media.

June Alipio, an employee of Kensington Hotel, told *Saipan Tribune* that he parked his Toyota Hilux near Guangdong Hardware in As Lito on Sunday at 1:30pm.

As he was about to go home at 6pm that same day, Alipio was surprised to see that the pickup truck was missing. He immediately called the police.

He said there were other
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A former police officer says President Rodrigo Duterte, when he was a mayor, paid him to kill criminals.

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BMW's flagship 5 Series sedan is in a smaller package with a smaller price tag.

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Local

EPA tells CUC to stop relying on federal funds

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has warned the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. that it cannot continue to rely on the federal government for financial support, according to EPA project coordinator John Tinger.

Tinger disclosed that CUC submitted an interim financial plan that depends on the federal government funding CUC projects. He described the plan as “unacceptable.”

Tinger’s declaration is attached in support of the U.S. government’s February 2017 status report on some CUC projects.

Needless to say, EPA rejected CUC’s financial plan.

In rejecting CUC’s submission, Tinger said, EPA said that CUC is solely responsible for its operations; that CUC must generate sufficient revenues; and that CUC cannot continue to rely on the federal government for funds.

Tinger said EPA has not re-

ceived CUC’s response.

Stipulated order 1 requires CUC to have an interim financial plan and a final financial plan that will generate enough revenue to cover compliance activities, stipulated orders, and measures necessary to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.

Since the stipulated orders were entered, CUC has been awarded \$54 million in EPA funding for CUC’s SO1 drinking water and wastewater systems.

Prior to the entry of the Engineering and Environmental Management Company order, the Department of the Interior awarded \$10

million in federal grant funds for CUC’s Stipulated Order 2 projects. Stipulated Order 2 focuses on oil issues such as requiring CUC to repair and replace oil storage and operation structure, manage tank and pipeline facilities, and require spill and emergency response equipment and protocols.

Itibus starts work as health czar

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Rep. Jose I. Itibus (R-Saipan) had started work as the CNMI House of Representatives’ health czar, joining other House members in inspecting the drug rehabilitation facility in Marpi and meeting with officials of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. last week.

The first-term lawmaker,

who chairs the House Committee on Health, said the rehab facility is not yet fully operational as construction and renovation are still ongoing.

“It will still take a little while for it to open. How long? They did not give us a time frame but it all depends on the contractors of the project. According to our guide, the buildings and rooms need

to be renovated while also making upgrades in some areas. There are already two contractors that already submitted specifications and, as soon as everything is finalized, they are going to put out a [request for proposal].”

He said the tour gave committee members an idea of what the place looks like when it finally opens. “Just to give us an idea of how it would look

like and how it would operate. At least, we had the chance to see the planned facility.”

The Community Guidance Center will also be helping in the facility where their staff is hoping construction moves fast. Counselors will be working with other agencies like the newly established CNMI drug court.

Itibus’ committee also met CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muna and other hospital officials to

know their current situation, especially the nurses that are going to be affected by the CNMI-Only Transitional Nonimmigrant Worker visa program’s numerical cap.

“We sat with them for the first time and asked about their concerns. They also gave an update on the CW1 cap issue where they are trying to address it right now, especially the nurses who are expected to be affected by the cap,” said Itibus.

“They said they are on top of the situation and are trying to find ways so the hospital’s operations won’t be hampered. We’re going to work with them to find a solution so our healthcare system won’t be affected.”

He added that they are hop-

ing Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan’s (Ind-MP) bill in U.S. Congress, House Resolution 339, would finally pass the Senate and be signed into law by President Donald Trump.

HR 339 aims to increase the CW1 numerical limit from 12,998 to 15,000 for fiscal year 2017 and increases the education fee for each approved CW1 permit from \$150 to \$200. The funds are used to train U.S. qualified workers.

“A significant number of the CHCC staff is going to be affected by the cap this September and HR 339 would alleviate our situation. They have their legal counsel working with them and they are trying their best to see what solution could be done.”

Bill to put poker, e-gaming under casino commission

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) believes the Commonwealth Casino Commission should regulate poker arcades and electronic gaming facilities since they fall under the gaming industry.

Deleon Guerrero, chairman of the newly established Gaming Committee of the House of Representatives, has introduced a bill transferring the functions of licensing and regulating poker arcades and e-gaming facilities from the Department of Finance to the commission.

Finance currently has the licensing and regulating powers of all machines used for poker amusement, pachinko slots, e-gaming, and electronic table games.

Deleon Guerrero said it is only proper that everything related to the gaming industry be put under the commission’s control.

“They have the training and the expertise in order to regulate the gaming industry. It just makes sense to consolidate everything in one regulatory authority,” he said. “They are in a better position to do it, but we do have some issues

that we are going to discuss further with them.”

“Like amending the bill to make things clearer. CCC supports the bill but it needs to be expanded and we’re working on it right now. They are also going to give us their comments,” said Deleon Guerrero, who was a member of the House that passed the bill that legalizes casino operations on Saipan in the 18th CNMI Legislature.

He said licensed poker and other gaming machines would still need to meet certain standards. “Maybe they are not compliant right now but this should be sorted by regulation. The standards for protocol for taking out money would also be tightened up.”

“We want to see that the gaming industry is tightly regulated. In a way it is not fair to the casino industry that they are heavily regulated and we have two others—poker and e-gaming—that are not. I’m not saying that they are not regulated, we just want to make sure all the standards are fair and equitable.”

Deleon Guerrero’s bill, House Bill 20-38, does not include bingo, cockfighting, and lottery.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kinpachi Restaurant staff and Saipan Awaodori Team members pose after collecting 540 lbs of trash during PDM Promoters, Inc.’s February cleanup.

PDM Promoters hauls 540 lbs of trash

PDM Promoters, Inc. held its monthly cleanup of the environs surrounding Paseo de Marianas in Garapan last Saturday, its effort yielding 540 lbs of trash.

The non-profit’s spokesperson, Sonia Siwa, said a total of 26 volunteers helped with the cleanup—eight staff from Kinpachi Restaurant and 18 members of the Saipan Awaodori Team.

The two-hour cleanup happened from 9am to 11am and covered the Paseo de Marianas, Coral Tree Avenue, part of Beach Road, and the inside alleys of the area.

Siwa said a Good Samaritan helped the volunteers by providing free drinks.

“We would like to thank the American gentleman for his generosity in providing the

kids drinks during the cleanup,” she said.

Siwa also thanked the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for once again helping PDM Promoters by waiving the fee for trash disposal.

PDM Promoters’ monthly cleanups are held every Saturday and are supported by BECQ and the non-profit’s major sponsors, T-Galleria

and TSL Foundation.

Siwa said T-Galleria and TSL Foundation’s support enables them to have the cleaning materials needed for their monthly cleanups. Kinpachi Restaurant provides the meal and snacks of the volunteers.

Volunteers of PDM Promoters will be at it again in March when they conduct their third monthly cleanup of the year. (*Saipan Tribune*)

MVA forms task force for long wait times

BY ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Faced with snaking lines at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport that give tourists a negative first impression of the Commonwealth, the Marianas Visitors Authority has created a task force to gather information on why it keeps happening.

The task force consists of MVA board members Jerry Tan and Tommy Kim, along with other members that have not been disclosed.

"They will have other peo-

ple from the community who are equally concerned about the situation," said MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce.

According to Aldan-Pierce, the goal of the task force is to obtain a measure of the total amount of time tourists spend lining up before being granted entry to the CNMI, as opposed to Customs and Border Protection's data that only measures the amount of time tourists spend in front of an immigration officer for clearance.

The task force would collect data from the time passengers

of a whole flight disembark from the plane to the time the same passengers leave the airport altogether.

"The community must be concerned because the tourism industry is the only economic revenue source of the CNMI. That's it," said Aldan-Pierce.

Aldan-Pierce added that the long waiting time pushes tourists to consider other destinations that allow them to enter within 30 minutes of disembarkation.

"We cannot, as an island nation, afford that," she said.

MVA has already brought up the issue with representa-

tives of Customs and Border Protection.

According to MVA, wait lines reach up to 3-4 hours before tourists are able to leave the airport. MVA emphasized that the 3-4 wait hours are unacceptable, especially when the elderly and children are involved and taking the time

of the day into consideration, since most international flights to Saipan are in the early hours of the morning.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said in an earlier interview that the long wait times hurt the CNMI's image and makes the islands look "less competitive."

The spike in Chinese and Korean tourists entering the

CNMI is also contributing to the long lines. The number of Chinese and Korean tourists is at an all-time high due to the Chinese, Korean, and Russian visa waiver, with Chinese and Korean tourists leading the pack at 206,538 and 200,875 arrivals, respectively. Chinese and Korean tourists comprise 81 percent of the total number of arrivals in the CNMI.

Manglona wants to know the status of Hillbroom's criminal cases in Palau

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona wants to know the status of Junior Larry Hillbroom's pending criminal cases in Palau.

Manglona told Hillbroom's new lawyer, Rachel Dimitruk, last week to update the court on the status of Hillbroom's criminal cases on June 29, 2017. By then, the court will hold a status conference on Hillbroom's legal malpractice lawsuit against his two former lawyers.

Manglona set the jury trial in Hillbroom's lawsuit for Feb. 6, 2018.

A pre-settlement conference will be held on Nov. 28, 2017, while the final settlement conference will be on Dec. 12, 2017.

According to the minutes of last week's hearing, Manglona also announced her rulings pertaining to some motions filed by lawyers Da-

vid J. Lujan and Barry Israel, who are defendants in Hillbroom's lawsuit.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Lee Hillblom.

Hillbroom was recaptured in Palau hours after he allegedly escaped from police's custody on Feb. 9, 2016, just a few hours after he was arrested over the seizure of \$160,000 worth of methamphetamine or "ice."

Hillbroom is suing Lujan and Israel for allegedly conspiring with a former trustee to inflate their contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings in Superior Court.

Hillbroom's name is spelled differently from DHL co-founder Hillblom. Hillbroom's mother, Kaelani Kinney, is a Palauan. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

High surf and small craft advisories cancelled

The National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, has cancelled the high surf and small craft advisory for the Marianas region.

It said that winds and waves have diminished to the point

where they no longer pose a hazard to small craft. The public is being urged, however, to continue to exercise caution since the waves will be remain just below small craft advisory

criteria most of this week.

The public and inexperienced mariners are encouraged to continue to be cautious near reeflines as strong rip currents may still occur. (*EOC*)

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Joyner, Hui launch interactive learning book

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Dr. John Joyner and Angie Hui have launched a book that would help Chinese parents bond with their child while learning a new language. The book would help parents learn English and in the process teach their child to speak Mandarin and English.

The book is first of a series. Joyner plans to come up with a Chamorro to English and vice-versa as his next project. Similar books in Carolinian, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish are also in the pipeline.

Joyner said the book is similar to a project he did while he

was in the U.S. mainland and this is also timely since the CNMI is now multicultural. The book—a paperback or electronic copy on Kindle—is only available outside the CNMI. There are plans to sell the book on island.

“We want to have every family understand child growth and development. So these languages are the ones that are in my mind. I’m really fortunate to have this one, meeting Angie, and helping me put this together by doing the translation to Chinese,” said Joyner.

“We talked about the project and slowly worked together. In the time that we’re working

on the book, we also attended [Walt Goodridge’s] writer’s workshop that was held here on Saipan.”

He said they talked to Goodridge after the workshop to ask him if he wants to be a part of the project. Goodridge at first declined, saying that he is only a coach and does not want to get directly involved.

“But as we talked and using my persuasive skills, he finally agreed to join us. So, I’m very pleased with all his help,” said Joyner, who added the collaboration for the project began in July and the first preview copy was printed last month.

The book is specially in-

tended for mothers, who just gave birth to her child. But fathers could also join since both parents must be involved in their child’s development.

Joyner said that learning a new language is not hard. “It is not that hard. You must remember that each language has its own characteristics and idiosyncrasies. The Carolinian [language] has some tonal with its pronunciations. Chinese is also very tonal.”

“And since we are a multicultural community, you pick up the other languages, then slowly learn how to speak. This book would help parents realize and understand the wonders of development.”

Hui, who hails from Shanghai, said that learning to speak Mandarin or Cantonese takes a lot of practice but is not that difficult. “The characters are the same, whether it is Mandarin or Cantonese.”

“You need a lot of practice in everything before you learn, same goes for speaking Chinese. I only know how to speak a little bit of English and I learned more when I met Dr. Joyner, when I helped with the book, and doing other translations.”

The concept and presentation of the words in the book are done in a simple way in order for parents to be able to easily read it to their child.

The book would also be helpful to Chinese couples who have children and are planning to visit Saipan where they can learn how to converse with simple English words.



ON PEREZ

Book co-authors John Joyner, from left, and Angie Hui with writer’s workshop facilitator Walt Goodridge.

Mid-Progress Report at FMS

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School will distribute the 3rd Quarter Mid-Progress report today, Feb. 21, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Students

will be dismissed at 11:30am. Also, the FMS’ Parent Student Teacher Association meeting will be conducted at 5:30pm in the school’s cafeteria. (PR)

EPA

From Page 1

programs that EPA has,” he said.

“If that funding is either reduced or seized, we would have to look at reducing the number of employees [BECQ] has, depending on the amount of money we end up getting, if any,” he added.

Rabauliman said defunding the EPA would have a tremendous impact on public health as well as the environment.

“[BECQ], through EPA funds, do daily sampling of our beaches. We routinely let the people know if there is contamination or not,” he said.

Rabauliman said if there is no money to pay for laboratory processing, sample collecting, and the sample analyzing, then the people of the CNMI could very well be trapped within their own beaches, not knowing when it is safe to take a swim or not.

“Although small, I like to believe these are very important to protect public health,”

said Rabauliman.

MINA executive director Becky Furey shared the same concerns.

“MINA relies on the support of our local partners such as BECQ as well as federal partners to do our work. BECQ’s work is critical to maintaining the marine and terrestrial environments of the CNMI that our communities rely on everyday,” said Furey in an email.

“Although I am not familiar with the specific challenges in respect to the new administration’s impacts to our environmental regulations, anything that might jeopardize BECQ’s ability to do their work is certainly a cause for concern and makes the role community members play in taking care of our islands that much more important,” said Furey.

The EPA provides over \$4 billion in funding for grants and assistance projects and agreements to both government and non-government agencies across the nation and its territories.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MONTHLY CLEANUP

Saipan Awaodori Team members participate in PDM Promoters, Inc.’s second cleanup of the year. They were joined by Kinpachi Restaurant staff in the cleanup that collected 540 lbs of trash.

See story on Page 2

DOJ

From Page 1

The U.S. government has asked the court to strike CUC’s motion for a waiver on the qualification requirements.

The position has been vacant since July 2015.

CUC legal counsel James Sirok said the U.S. government’s views are merely conclusory opinions of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency project coordinator John Tinger and are not supported by facts and circumstances related to CUC’s efforts to find Fletcher’s replacement.

Sirok noted that Fletcher was already on island and was working as CUC’s deputy executive director when he first filled the role as acting executive director in 2013 and was later appointed by the governor as executive director during the time when there was no CUC board. Sirok said the governor did not have to look off-island for a replacement.

O’Brien pointed out that in

2015 and 2016, EPA approved three executive director candidates and an additional potentially qualified fourth candidate. CUC did not hire these people; instead, it continued to operate under an acting executive director, O’Brien said.

Contrary to CUC’s motion, O’Brien said, past hiring outreach shows that executive director applicants that meet the requirements are willing to become CUC’s executive director.

O’Brien said the executive director is literally and figuratively CUC’s leader and is CUC’s singularly most important position. For this reason, he said, the executive director must possess the educational background and professional experience and meet minimum requirements.

The qualifications include a master’s degree in management, engineering, finance, or public administration, or, in the alternative, a bachelor’s degree in engineering and registration as a professional engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either

the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch.

In CUC’s objection to the U.S. government’s request, Sirok said after the CUC board was established in early 2014, it had an opportunity to observe Fletcher’s management skills and overall ability to manage CUC.

Sirok said Fletcher’s contract with CUC expired naturally in July 2015.

Sirok said what Tinger and the U.S. government have failed to articulate to the court is that the decline in the percentage of water availability to CUC’s customer base occurred during the tenure of Fletcher, and it increased during the tenure of Camacho as acting executive director.

Sirok said the reality of the situation is that, under Camacho’s management as acting executive director, matters related to SO1 deficiencies are being recognized and resolved with a higher priority and a higher rate of success than they were during Fletcher’s tenure.

Sirok said Fletcher was truly a water and wastewater

expert with the educational degree required under SO1, yet he still failed to correct the issues over malfunctioning water meters.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the CUC board of directors recently asked the federal court to allow Camacho to officially assume the role of executive director.

The court’s stipulated order 1 requires CUC to have an EPA approved plan and schedule to perform detection and repair of leaks in the drinking water distribution system, and to identify and eliminate subsurface connections to old drinking water lines or pipes that may negatively impact the quality of water in the distribution system.

Stipulated order 2 focuses on oil issues such as requiring CUC to repair and replace oil storage and operation structure, manage tank and pipeline facilities, and require spill and emergency response equipment and protocols. This order also applies to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

TRUCK

From Page 1

vehicles parked next to his truck. He said the pickup had just been painted last year and has an Air Jordan sticker on the back window.

Alipio wonders how the suspect managed to get his truck considering that he still has the key.

He appealed to anyone who has information about the truck’s whereabouts and the suspect to call the police.

In the other case, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter

donation box was stolen last Friday, while the Karidat box was stolen on Saturday. The boxes were both placed in the counter station of a restaurant.

The restaurant only learned about the missing donation boxes on Saturday when a staff noticed that one box was gone as he/she was cleaning. The cleaner saw the box in the counter a few minutes before it was stolen.

Saipan Tribune opted to withhold the name of the restaurant at the manager’s request so that it will not jeopardize the police investigation. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Making sure veterans know about and receive all the benefits they earned serving their country: that is the goal of this week's Veterans Resource Fair put together by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

The fair begins on Saipan on Wednesday, Feb. 22, from 1pm to 7pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. On Thursday, Feb. 23, the

fair continues on Tinian at the Northern Marianas College instructional site from 10am to 4pm. The third and final day of the fair will be on Rota on Friday, Feb. 24, at the Rota Resort from 10am to 4 pm.

"We will have over 30 different federal and local resource providers set up with tables at the fairs," Sablan said. "Staff from the Veterans Health Administration and the

Fair aims to get veterans the help they earned

Veterans Benefits Administration will be there to answer questions and assist veterans with enrollments or claims.

"We will also have representatives from the U.S. Army Reserve's Family Programs and the Department of Defense's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, along with

various Commonwealth agencies and community providers who will explain the education and vocational training, employment assistance, disability services, crisis assistance, legal aid, counseling, and social support programs they offer.

"Often it is hard for veterans and their families to find the

help they need. So, we decided to bring together as many resources as we could in one place and make it easier for those who served our country to get the services they deserve," Sablan said.

The Veterans Resource Fair is free and open to the public.

"Helping veterans, service members, and military families is the focus of this fair," Sablan explained. "But everyone is welcome. You may learn about a resource at the fair and be able to pass along the information to someone you know who can benefit from it."

Veterans and military families who wish to meet with a VA representative at the fair are encouraged to bring supporting documents (such as copies of DD214 forms, medical records, or marriage or birth certificates for dependents) that are relevant to their questions or claims.

For more information, contact the U.S. congressional office on Saipan at (670) 323-2647 or e-mail Kilili@mail.house.gov.

Sablan is a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. (PR)

Rota delegation to hold summit

Rota lawmakers and the island's other elected leaders are planning to hold a leadership summit early next month to bring together the island's stakeholders.

Rota Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota), Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind.-Rota), and Rep. Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota) are the other delegation members.

"Everyone will have its own job since all the delegation members know the challenges that we are facing," Mesngon said.

Santos is the delegation's vice chair and secretary while Maratita is the floor leader after Manglona declined to accept any position.

The island's economic situation would be the main reason for the summit but pending projects under the Capital

Improvement Plan and Rota's medical referral issues are other things that they would focus on, Mesngon said.

"Our leadership meeting would involve the municipality [Office of the Mayor and Rota Municipal Council], the business sector, and other members from our community to discuss how we could unite in developing Rota," said Mesngon.

"We're going to see on how we could entice other people and investors to do business on Rota, which is currently experiencing a slow economic activity. Some Rota Resort workers were also laid off and the CW-1 [CNMI Only Transitional Nonimmigrant Worker visa] are also issues that we would discuss in the meeting."

"We're going to open our lines of communication within our community on Rota and we're going to study every situation on how to improve our economic activity. These are

some of the issues that we're going to discuss and we are inviting everyone to join us," Mesngon added.

Efraim Atalig is the Rota mayor while Anthony Wayne Barcinas, Kary John Ramos, and Ivan Mereb Jr. are members of the Rota Municipal Council.

Mesngon said the meeting would be held after the delegation's next session on Rota in the second week of March.

Santos supports Mesngon's call for a united Rota, saying this would help them fulfill their mandate. "Although we have issues to pursue, hopefully it would culminate in everyone being on the same page and be proactive in our solutions."

Santos said the issues the delegation needs to address include interisland medical referral "by ensuring prompt payments of our patients' allowances, identifying funding for our Rota municipal scholarship, land compensation issues, facilitate in the completion of land issues, and the municipal-

ity's outstanding debts."

Some of the ways to help increase economic activity on the island include moving forward with infrastructure projects such as improving airline service and transportation on Rota, she said.

Santos said the Rota leadership should also work with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the CNMI Legislature—under reins of House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan)—and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

"Our jobs are more challenging and demanding since we are distant from the business center that makes the prices of basic goods, commodities, and airfare higher. Thus, we must remain focused on our issues, working closely with our municipal leaders, the CNMI executive and legislative branches, and Congressman Kilili's office. In doing so, we can alleviate some of our pressing concerns." (Jon Perez)

6 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged six Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites are the Tanapag Meeting Hall, American Memorial Park, Hafa Adai Hotel, Hafa Adai drain-

age, Garapan Beach, and Chalan Kanoa District 2 drainage.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. (DEQ)

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Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

CASE WORKER I

Announcement # JVA17-011

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Drug Court Manager in the Drug Court Division on Saipan which is responsible for drug court assessments, case management with drug court participants and provides ongoing support to the Drug Court operation/functions. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Conduct intake, assessment, establish case plan for referred participants;
- Conducts program/phase orientation and inform participants of legal requirements and implications concerning treatment;
- Tracks drug tests, group attendance, individual counseling attendance, outside groups (Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Discovery Course) and other services;
- Provides case management;
- Coordinates/conducts individual, family and group therapeutic/educational/substance abuse treatment sessions/and crisis intervention;
- Conducts discharge planning and provides referrals for continuing treatment;
- Provides follow-up contact as needed;
- Communicates with Compliance Specialist and other Drug Court staff to secure resources for participants;
- Maintains files, records legal and case documentation in accordance with established regulatory policies and procedure;
- Attends staff meetings, in-service training, workshops, and interagency conferences to coordinate services;
- Attends Drug Court sessions as needed; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university in Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, or closely related field. Have three (3) years experience as a counselor in substance abuse treatment programs. Any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the minimum knowledge, abilities and skills required for the position.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be \$35,000 - \$40,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This internal job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



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Judiciary Administrative Office
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK I

Announcement # JVA17-010
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$20,485 - \$22,500 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
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Saipan, MP 96950
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michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

MCS honor societies land in the news

By **DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO**
demalynn_pagarao@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three Mount Carmel School honor societies were front and center in a publication that honored the school for its ability to provide a “true sense of continuity” for those inducted as elementary or middle-level students.

The National Elementary Honor Society News recognized the significance of having three chapters under MCS.

Three years ago, Mount Carmel’s NEHS chapter made its debut under the direction of principal Frances Taimanao, who believed that the character development provided by honor societies would be beneficial to the entire school.

School president and 1991 AlumKnight Galvin Deleon Guerrero said, “As much of the research in childhood development demonstrates, the foundation for lifelong suc-

cess is laid in early childhood. So it’s important to recognize and promote academic achievement and service with organizations like the National Elementary Honor Society.”

The older students get to serve as role models, while the younger students are able to see firsthand what it takes to excel over the long term.

Each fully separate chapter is geared toward the age of the students who gain membership. Together, however, the trio of honor societies at Mount Carmel is able to interact, thanks to the structure of the school. For example, in 2016, they held a joint ceremony where 66 students were inducted into their respective national honor societies as part of a celebration for the 20th anniversary of NHS at the school.

The members take action via service activities, from supporting community projects

such as the Marianas March Against Cancer and American Red Cross Walkathon, to lending a hand at the Salvation Army’s soup kitchen and several community cleanups.

As fifth-grade NEHS member Ranasia Bocago puts it, “This program helps shape my education by [helping me be] a role model to my peers; keep up with my studies; and help my community, my school, and especially those in need.”

Sixth-grader Yurihana Sasamoto echoes Bocago, saying, “We are here to help everyone in our community.”

Being a leader at school and in the community is something that senior and NHS president Michael Ortizo—once a member of NJHS—takes to heart: “It is only by example that we can really learn and grow and the national honor society acts as that example for everyone striving to become a good role model.”

BECQ lauds help vs illegal dumps

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank Rabauliman commended Friday the efforts of some House representatives in cleaning up Garapan.

Rabauliman thanked Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) “for going out there and lending additional eyes on where these illegal dumps are and who might be violating the law.”

Propst and Blanco would post pictures of illegal dumps on social media to bring the pollution problem to the atten-

tion of the public.

According to Rabauliman, BECQ spends more than 50 percent of its time educating people.

Rabauliman said that littering should not be addressed solely by the government agencies involved, but by the community as well.

He believes the excess waste is related to the rising population of the islands. “A lot more waste is generated—both solid waste and wastewater,” said Rabauliman.

To supplement the anti-littering efforts, the 3rd litter control apprehending officers certification training would be

held on Feb. 28.

According to Division of Environmental Quality’s Ray Masga, they aim to certify a hundred anti-littering officers.

The participants would be taken from BECQ and other government agencies such as the Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Works, and others.

This would be the first training that would be held since Public Law 19-53 was signed into law by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last July. That law provides a sliding scale for littering penalties, with the amount of the fine to depend on the severity of the violation.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS

PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-004-17

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2017 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

“PROCUREMENT OF ONE (1) UNIT VEHICLE:
2017 ACCESS CAB P/U TRUCK, 4-CYLINDER 4WHEEL
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POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, ALL OTHER FEATURES
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INSTALLATION OF A NEW BED-FITTED
ALUMINUM TOOL BOX”.

DELIVERY OF VEHICLE TO SAIPAN AIRPORT SHALL BE 60 DAYS OR SOONER AFTER BID AWARD. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROCUREMENT SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA EMAIL AT cpa.receptionist@pticom.com PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 17, 2017.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL BID AND 2 COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED:

“PROCUREMENT OF ONE UNIT 2017 ACCESS CAB P/U TRUCK”. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND \$40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859
Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Petitioner Armando Villafuerte

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF) CIVIL ACTION NO.: 26-0252
ANGELINA BORJA PEREDO aka ANGELINA P. RIOS) SUMMONS BY) NOTICE OF HEARING) ON PETITION FOR) LETTERS OF) ADMINISTRATION) AND APPOINTMENT) OF ADMINISTRATRIX

Deceased.

TO: THE SURVIVING HEIRS OF ANGELINA BORJA PEREDO aka ANGELINA P. RIOS:

The foregoing Summons/Notice of Hearing is served upon you by publication to notify you that on **April 20, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.**, a hearing will be held before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho on Petitioner Armando Villafuerte’s Petition for Letters of Administration and Appointment of Administratrix in the above-styled matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The attorney for Armando Villafuerte is Robert T. Torres, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 29th day of December, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POSITION VACANCY: Comptroller, Ungraded
ANNUAL SALARY: Up to \$70,000
CLOSING DATE: To Be Announced

This position is an excepted service position. The incumbent in this position shall manage the Accounting Department and provide information primarily in nature to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. The incumbent shall also perform other functions as the Executive Director and the Board of Directors may require.

GENERAL DUTIES

- Oversees the activities of the Accounting Department for the accurate and timely dissemination of financial management reports including but not limited to, internal and external financial statements productions.
- Keeps the official books and accounts of the Authority
- Prepares an annual report of the financial condition of the Authority for the Board Directors.
- Prepares response to audit exceptions and recommend alternative solutions.
- Approves all accruals and journal entries for posting to the general ledger.
- Supervises and reviews the work of the accounting staff to assure the CDA's financial records are properly maintained and recorded.
- Tracks all of CDA's investments and make recommendations to increase income.
- Prepares and monitors in conjunctions with Bond Trustee designated Trust Department Officer a schedule of investments within the guidelines established by the Trust Agreement and the CDA Act with scheduled maturity dated to provide the quality of funds to meet the CNMI capital improvement projects local matching funds requirements. Said plan to be concurred by the Executive Director.
- Prepares financial statements and other documents as directed by the Executive Director and/or the Chairman of the Board during the development and underwriting of any bond issue.
- Maintains a profit and loss statement on all Bond issues and Trust Funds.
- Participates in a wide variety of special projects and compile a variety of special reports as requested by the Board of Directors.
- Reviews all CIP contracts and determine if fund certification is appropriate.
- Maintains financial records of all capital improvement projects funded by CDA and/or those for which CDA provided any local matching funds.
- Attends all CDA and DCD meetings.
- Establishes and maintain systems and controls which verify the integrity of all systems, process, and data.
- Provides training for the accounting employees.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

EDUCATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS

Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from a U.S. accredited college or university. Minimum of five (5) years of professional experience in government or financial accounting. U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred but not required. Must have knowledge of QuickBooks accounting software; Able to make legislative presentations and to interpret laws, contracts, ordinances, and regulations; Effectively communicate orally and in writing; Possesses a strong management skills; Proficient in MS Office applications; and Able to establish and maintain cooperative working relationship with others.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with employment application form, during regular working hours at the CDA Office, 2nd Floor, CDA Building, Oleai or may be obtained on CDA's website at www.developcnmi.com.

Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.



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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Accountant/Bookkeeper

The incumbent in this position will be responsible for processing accounts receivables and payable. Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. The employee may be assigned to prepare BGRT, excise tax, daily sales and collections reports.

Tasks:

- Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information.
- Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes.
- Classify, record, and summarize numerical and financial data to compile and keep financial records, using journals and ledgers or computers.
- Debit, credit, and total accounts on computer spreadsheets and databases, using specialized accounting software.
- Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents.
- Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers.
- Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations.
- Compile statistical, financial, accounting or auditing reports and tables pertaining to such matters as cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payable and receivable, and profits and losses.
- Code documents according to company procedures.
- Reconcile or note and report discrepancies found in records.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Qualification: Any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting plus two years of related work experience. Knowledge in AccPac software is desirable.

PTC offers a competitive salary to correspond with experience and qualification. Interested person may pick up an employment application at our office in Puerto Rico. Deadline for submission is **no later than 5:00pm on February 28, 2017**. Pacific Trading Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Woodruff withdraws as counsel for Guanlao

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Stephen Woodruff has withdrawn as counsel for a Filipino mother who has two U.S. children and is challenging an order for her removal from the CNMI.

Woodruff said that, based on his observation, Amalia Abo Guanlao is now unable to accept his advice, think clearly about her case, or grasp his explanation of matters related to her case.

Woodruff said that Guanlao has repeated errors in her perception and understanding of matters.

Even after several explanations and attempts to disabuse her of her misconception, she keeps returning again and again to the same errors, he said.

This is extraordinary frustrating for him, Woodruff said.

Guanlao is suing then-U.S. Department of Homeland Secretary Jeh Johnson and several U.S. immigration officials.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona of the U.S. District Court for the NMI has put on hold Guanlao's removal from the CNMI while the court hears her petition.

In his request to withdraw filed last week, Woodruff expressed fear that the conduct of a U.S. Department of Justice lawyer has permanently damaged the attorney-client relationship between himself and Guanlao. He described that conduct as "improper."

In the event the court grants his motion to withdraw, the respondents' motion to disqualify him as counsel for Guanlao

should be denied on the merits, not as moot, he said.

It is important that the court establish clear precedent as to the inappropriateness and lack of merit of these kinds of motions as litigation tactics, said Woodruff, referring to the respondents' motion to strike and the motion to disqualify him.

Woodruff said at the hearing last Feb. 14, he was shocked when, at the end of the proceeding, Guanlao, after being offered an opportunity to address the court and encouraged by him to do so, offered two documents to the court.

He said the documents are the engagement agreement between him and Guanlao, and the draft declaration he had prepared for purposes of supporting her opposition to respondents' motion to disqualify him.

Woodruff said it was the draft declaration that Guanlao had declined to sign or discuss and thus was never submitted to the court—and stated emotionally that the contents of the two documents were "very different."

Woodruff said Guanlao also referred to the declaration as being one he "wanted" her to sign.

Woodruff said not having any idea what Guanlao was talking about or why, and not having a clear recollection of the contents of the two documents, he promptly asserted attorney-client privilege.

The lawyer said he insisted on an opportunity to discuss the matter with Guanlao before any waiver of the privilege and potential irreparable harm occurred.

He said the court then received the documents in a sealed envelope.

Woodruff said having now examined the documents and met with Guanlao, and finding himself in the position of needing to withdraw, he takes no position on the question of attorney-client privilege for these documents.

At the hearing, Woodruff said, the court correctly observed that attorney retainer agreements are generally not privileged.

Moreover, he said, the privilege belongs to the client, not the attorney.

Woodruff has no objection if the court wishes to examine the documents.

He said what he can say categorically is that there is no inconsistency between these two documents and that it is not true that they are "very different."

"The only area of overlap is the subject of the limitations on my ability to practice law. In this area, the draft declaration is more detailed than the engagement agreement, but the substance is identical," he pointed out.

Woodruff said Guanlao is highly emotional.

At one point, Woodruff said, Guanlao cried, saying the litigation was affecting even her children and her relationship with them.

Woodruff said Guanlao stated that if it were not for her children and the difficulty it would present for them, she would just go back to the Philippines.

Woodruff believes that Guanlao was very poorly served by her previous lawyers.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP17-DLNR-088

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 09, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC EQUIPMENT SYSTEMS & INSTALLATION FOR THE KAGMAN WATER WELL PROJECT, SAIPAN, MP A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENSION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

A SITE VISIT IS SCHEDULED ON FEBRUARY 24, 2017 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE KAGMAN STATION.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED ON FEBRUARY 24, 2017 AT 10:00A.M. AT THE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE KAGMAN STATION CONFERENCE ROOM IN KAGMAN, SAIPAN.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP17-NIMO-087

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 9, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT SYSTEMS AND INSTALLATION FOR THE NORTHERN ISLANDS MAYOR'S OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENSION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED ON FEBRUARY 23, 2017 AT 10:00A.M. AT THE NIMO OFFICE, ASCENSION CT. BUILDING NO. 1345. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE MADE TO MR. JEROME K. ALDAN, MAYOR OF NIMO NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 27, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JEROME K. ALDAN
MAYOR, NORTHERN ISLANDS

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ANA E. REYES)
Petitioner.) FCD-DI-CIVIL
) ACTION NO.
vs.) 17-0044

EFRAN M. REYES)
Respondent.) **SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file an answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 502286 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 27th day of January, 2017.
/s/ Clerk of Court

Manglona recuses from lawsuit vs Imperial Pacific

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has recused herself from presiding over a lawsuit filed by Tropical Gardens Inc. against the company that's building a casino in Garapan.

Tropical Gardens has accused Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC of causing its near bankruptcy for refusing to pay for plants and services rendered at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel.

Because Tropical Garden's counsel, Daniel T. Guidotti, is involved in litigation involving her family trust, Manglona said she must disqualify herself from the case.

Manglona gave either party until March 16, 2017, to decide whether they agree to magistrate judge Heather Kennedy handling the case.

Tropical Gardens is suing Imperial Pacific International, Ltd., which is doing business

as Best Sunshine International Ltd., and 10 unnamed co-defendants, for breach of contract, promissory estoppel, and unjust enrichment.

Guidotti asked the court to hold Imperial Pacific liable to pay Tropical Garden enough money to compensate for its lost profits and out-of-pocket expenses.

Tropical Garden claims it is nearly bankrupt now after Imperial Pacific refused to pay

for supply and installation services for plant materials at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel.

According to the lawyer in the complaint, Imperial Pacific contracted with Worldwide Asia Engineering Limited, a Hong Kong corporation, for the hotel project.

Guidotti said Worldwide Asia was Imperial Pacific's agent for the purpose of developing the landscaping plan, procuring plants for the landscaping, and managing

installation of the landscaping aspects of the hotel.

In June 2016, Tropical Gardens responded to Imperial Pacific's solicitation for bids to supply plant materials, which included a quotation for \$1.3 million plus a schedule of costs for supply of plant material to the hotel.

In June 2016, Guidotti said, Worldwide Asia informed Tropical Gardens that Imperial Pacific accepted Tropical's bid. In July 2016, Tropical

Gardens began propagating and procuring plant materials for the hotel.

Guidotti said that as a result of non-payment, Tropical Gardens allegedly released more than half of its workers a few days before 2016 Christmas, used all of its cash reserves, halted its performance under the supply purchase order and the installation bid, and incurred taxes and other debts that the company cannot pay.

To date, the lawyer said, Imperial Pacific has not repaid Tropical Gardens for any sums. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

'27M people are enslaved today'

According to the Pacific Ombudsman for Humanitarian Law, about 27 million people today are enslaved. This number was brought up at the quarterly Soroptimist International Club NMI Chapter meeting last Thursday.

Pamela Brown, a former attorney general, POHL executive director, and Soroptimist Club NMI Chapter president, said that Thursday's meeting was intended to get the word out that human trafficking continues to occur, even in the Northern Marianas.

At the same time, she said solving human trafficking also includes getting as many people as possible involved, or to at least inform more people.

"We want to get the message out to the community that we do have people fighting [human trafficking] but it does exist here and it has always ex-

isted here, just as it does globally," said Brown.

She said most of the women here are involved in some manner with either human trafficking or want to be involved with anti-human trafficking.

"We are lucky that we have Karidat and they have a shelter, because the shelter and their grant money helps provide for victims of human trafficking," said Brown.

According to POHL, human trafficking is defined as the recruiting, transporting, receiving, or harboring of human beings by use of force, fraud, or coercion for commercial sex, debt bondage, or forced labor.

Brown said the lightest form of human trafficking occurs when "you have worked and not gotten paid, somehow paid too little, or somehow abused while you are working."

Human trafficking further branches into two types: sex trafficking and labor trafficking, which deals with victims of any age being forced into committing sex acts and forced labor, respectively.

Sex trafficking and labor trafficking often overlap.

According to POHL, anybody of any age could be a victim. In their handouts at the Soroptimist Cub meeting, POHL said that, according to multiple sources, about 80 percent of trafficking victims are women and girls, and about 50 percent are children.

If you believe someone is a victim of trafficking or if you want to report suspected human trafficking, call the National Victims Hotline at 1-888-373-7888, Department of Public Safety or Crime Stoppers at 234-7272, Victim's Hotline at 234-5100, or the emergency hotline at 911. **(Erwin Encinares)**



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

9th JP Glow Walk on Feb. 24

TanHoldings will be holding its 9th Annual JP Walk this Friday, Feb. 24. Registration is \$10 per person, inclusive of a free shirt (while supplies last) and a raffle ticket. The fair will start at 5pm. Pick up registration forms at the JP Center Bldg. along Beach Road in Garapan or register at the site starting at 4pm. There will be two routes. The 3K will start from the Garapan Fishing Base to the turning point across Gold Beach Hotel and there will be a turning point at Quartermaster Road intersection for the 5K. Funds raised from the event will go to the 2017 Marianas March Against Cancer on behalf of TanHoldings. For more information, call Eunice Angeles at (670) 235-0561. **(PR)**

Air Force training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ Feb. 21, from 10am to 3:45pm

■ Feb. 22, from 10am to 3:45pm

■ Feb. 24, from 10am to 3:45pm

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. **(PR)**

MIFICPA tax seminar on Feb. 25

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPA's and Accountants will be hosting their annual tax seminar on Feb. 25 at the Raraina, Aqua Resort Club, from 8am to noon. This year's focus will be on tax updates for 2016 and 2017, changes in tax laws, tax filing requirements, and others.

David Burger, CPA, will be conducting the seminar. He is the managing partner of Burger, Comer, and Magliari.

Registration starts at 7:30am. Registration fee for members is \$20. Non-members and non-accountants are also welcome for the same fee.

If you have any questions, email Angie Mamaril at angiemamaril@yahoo.com, Lois Manese at eloisa_moanese@yahoo.com, Rose Badidoy at roseann.badidoy@yahoo.com, Butch Ordas at butchordas@yahoo.com, Gloria Balila at mgmbalila@yahoo.com,

Michael Anthony Jordan at mkho_22@yahoo.com or Yho Villaviencio at yhubowl300@gmail.com. **(PR)**

SHEFA deadline

To all new, ongoing, and returning applicants, the deadline for supporting documents for SHEFA financial assistance is Feb. 28, 2017. **(PR)**

Xavier entrance exam on Feb. 25

The Xavier High School entrance written exam will be administered on Feb. 25, at 8:30am at Mt. Carmel School. Interested test takers are encouraged to bring several No. 2 pencils, snacks, and water. Exam fee is \$10. There are two parts to the exam (English and math). Each exam lasts one hour and 30 minutes with a 15-minute break in between. Test takers should be prepared to be on the Mt. Carmel school grounds for three hours and 30 minutes from 8am to 11:30pm. Exam starts exactly at 8:30am. Interested exam takers are encouraged to RSVP by Thursday, Feb. 23, to reserve a seat. Email ialafanso@gmail.com or call 285-8768. Xavier High School is a Jesuit Catholic school. **(PR)**



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Canada remains a vital American ally

The visit to Washington Monday of Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau seems to have gone relatively smoothly, in spite of the general fireworks underway surrounding Michael Flynn, the White House national security adviser who was forced to resign that evening.

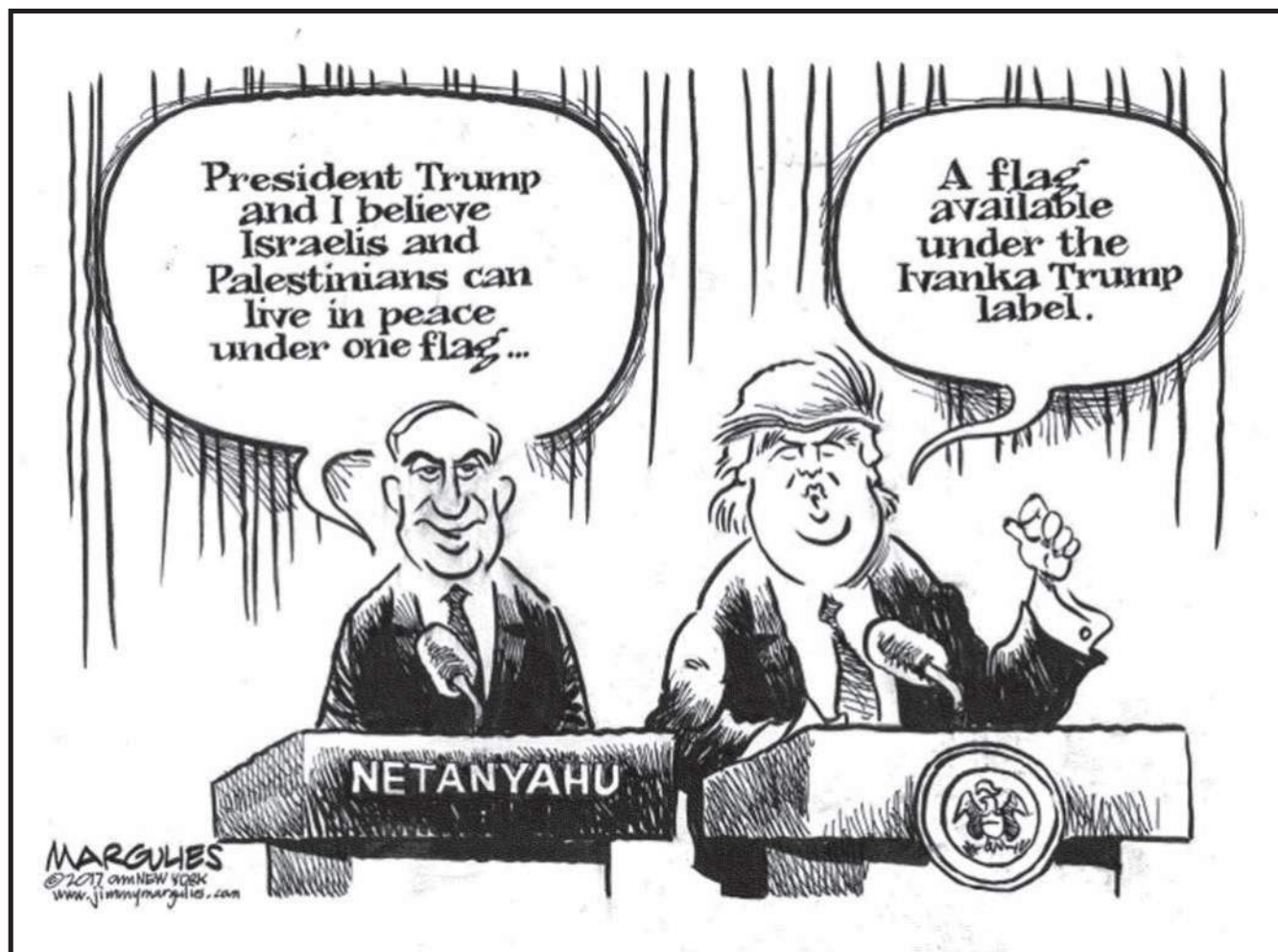
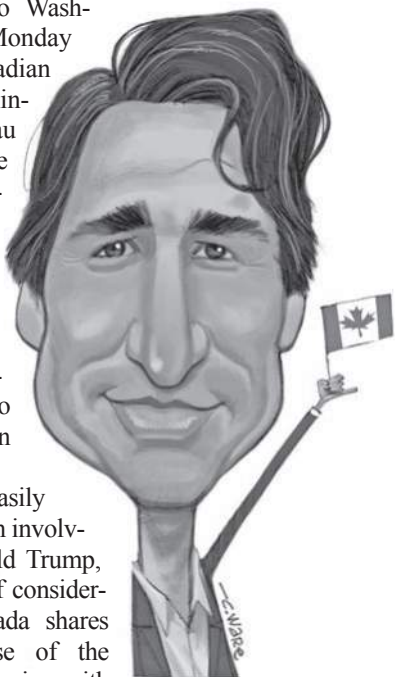
Trudeau could easily have found the storm involving President Donald Trump, Flynn and Russia of considerable concern. Canada shares closely the defense of the north of North America with the United States, is a fellow NATO member, and is as close geographically to Russia as the United States is. He might also have looked uneasily at Trump's falling out with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, which led to his cancellation or—we can hope—postponement of his scheduled visit to the United States to meet with Trump.

The problems between Mexico and the United States, turning in part on immigration, are different from those between Canada and the United States, although Trump should not forget that renegotiation of the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement would involve Canada to the north as well as Mexico to the south. If part of Trump's concern over immigration, reflected in his attempted ban on travel to the United States by citizens of the seven Muslim-majority countries, currently tied up in U.S. courts, is security, Canada's more "open door" approach to immigrants, especially from war-torn nations including Syria, is decidedly different and potentially riskier than the one Trump is attempting to pursue.

Trump and Trudeau certainly had much to discuss. Apart from the travel that takes place across the long, largely undefended border, the two nations are important trading partners. Trudeau's government's approach to climate change is also different from Trump's so-far stated position, notwithstanding the fact that North American air is shared air.

The effort at cordiality on the part of both leaders, in spite of their policy and age differences, is welcome to Americans and Canadians. Perhaps the next step should be a three-part meeting, to draw in Mexico's president. Trudeau would want to see that; Trump should want to see it.

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Democrats shouldn't oppose supremely qualified Gorsuch

When he was nominated for a federal judgeship in 2006, Neil Gorsuch was confirmed by voice vote in the Senate and there was not a single objection to an obviously qualified nominee. Though no one is expecting as smooth a ride for Gorsuch as President Trump's nominee to the Supreme Court, his qualifications are just as undeniable. The position of Senate liberals seems to be, "Announce your opposition, and find reasons later," but they will quickly learn it's a very tough case to make.

Like the justice he would succeed, the late Antonin Scalia, Gorsuch is highly regarded in legal circles for qualities having little to do with politics or ideology. Democrats and Republicans alike know him as a judge of extremely impressive ability, uncompromising in his sense of fairness and in his personal integrity.

In a 25-year legal career, Gorsuch has clerked for two Supreme Court justices (one appointed by John F. Kennedy, the other by Ronald Reagan), served in the Department of Justice, spent a decade in private practice, and has now served another decade on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit. He has written more than 200 opinions for that court, marked by insight and clarity that have drawn comparisons to the style of Scalia.

As with Scalia, moreover, Gorsuch's style is a reflection of a judicial philosophy that begins with deference to written law. This puts him at odds with progressives who have spent decades urging courts to invent new rights, or to disregard old ones, according to the latest ideological fashion.

Exactly as the president promised, this is a judge who understands the proper limits of his office, never mistaking personal preference for constitutional mandates. Judges, as Gorsuch has written, "should be in the business of declaring what the law is using the traditional tools of interpretation, rather than pronouncing the law as they might wish it to be in light of their own political views."

For most of American history, this understanding of the difference between judging and legislating was practically the definition of faithful jurisprudence. Yet, nowadays, liberals regard it as too narrow and "out of the mainstream."

The progressive agenda depends on judges who are activist in reaching beyond the rule of law's limits in constitutional cases, but who are completely passive in allowing agencies to go beyond statutory bounds in regulatory cases—and Gorsuch

By RICK SANTORUM

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Rick Santorum is a former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania. Readers may send him email at press@ricksantorum.com. He wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.



is clearly not that kind of judge. The president has nominated, instead, a person of both modesty and character—not given to judicial overreach, but firm and decisive in upholding the rights guaranteed in our Constitution and laws.

Religious liberty, for instance, was on the line in several notable cases that came before Gorsuch's 10th Circuit court during the Obama years. Federal authorities, in enforcing the mandates of the Affordable Care Act, had been hounding an order of Catholic nuns, the Little Sisters of the Poor, for resisting intrusive regulations on grounds of conscience. After a panel of his own court ruled against the Little Sisters, Gorsuch urged his colleagues to reconsider. When the case went to the Supreme Court, the justices essentially agreed with his argument that the government had shown too little regard for a legitimate claim of religious freedom.

It was a similar story in the 2013 case *Hobby Lobby Stores v. Sebelius*. The government argued that Obamacare regulations took precedence over the sincere religious convictions of the owners of the Hobby Lobby chain. Concurring with the majority in favor of Hobby Lobby, Gorsuch defended the right of business owners not to be compelled to adopt practices they know to be contrary to their religious faith. His reasoning prevailed again at the Supreme Court, in what is now a landmark case for religious freedom in America.

Hobby Lobby was also closely decided, in a 5-4 split with Scalia, of course, in the majority. And though the progressive left, until late on the evening of last Nov. 8, had every expectation of replacing Scalia with one of their own, it didn't work out according to plan. Their upset defeat on Election Day has left them so resentful and desperate that they pledged to block the nominee by filibuster even before knowing the name. It's a cheap and transparently unfair tactic, and it can succeed only if enough Senate Democrats cave to partisan pressure and play along.

The surest proof that someone is "outside the mainstream" is blind hostility to the nomination of this highly respected jurist.

By any reasonable measure, Neil Gorsuch is a man of superb qualifications, with well-known convictions and a demonstrated commitment to the Constitution. On the bench, he has proven his good faith and independence, and soon it will be time for Senate Democrats to prove theirs.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Where have all the liberal Democrats gone?

What happened to liberal Democrats, and their concerns about civil liberties and government surveillance of American citizens?

Liberals once hated the CIA. And they loved the Russians. Yeah, you can look it up.

And their liberal friends in liberal Hollywood made movie after movie about the dangers of The Deep State and its awesome surveillance powers. One of the best was “Three Days of the Condor,” with liberal icon Robert Redford fighting the malevolent CIA boss John Houseman, who longed for “the clarity” of world war.

Years later, Edward Snowden became the liberal demigod and WikiLeaks was their winged chariot of truth and beauty. Liberals fretted about the powers of the intelligence community being used on private citizens for political reasons.

So what happened to them? What happened to the ideals of these liberal Democrats?

Donald Trump was elected president, that’s what happened to them.

And now you can clearly see the change in them as Trump’s national security adviser, Michael Flynn, has become feast for the crows.

Flynn deserves his punishment. Make no mistake about that. He reportedly lied to Vice President Mike Pence about his phone conversations with a Russian ambassador that included discussion of the Obama administration’s sanctions against Russia.

As a former general officer, as a former Defense Intelligence Agency boss, Flynn understands the chain of command. There is no lying to a superior officer, and Pence was his superior. Lying to a superior is grounds for court-martial. Or, at least gives pretext for a quick and brutal departure from the Trump White House, which is what happened.

So Flynn is gone, forced to resign, his head high on a spike upon the Democratic Party ramparts.

Democrats jeer at his head up there. It’s as if this episode were street theater in olde England, with Punch and Judy entertaining the small folk. And Flynn’s head, up there above them, is pecked endlessly in the sun.

But what victory are they celebrating, exactly? And at what cost to the republic?

What would have been bothersome to liberals of old (the pre-Trump kind) is that Flynn may have been targeted for a takedown by the Deep State intelligence operatives liberals once loathed.

Flynn and Trump warred with the intelligence community during the campaign, and Trump called out the CIA and others on multiple occasions, tweeting at them, provoking them.

Most recently, Trump was furious that his private conversations with the Australian prime minister became public and were used as a club to pound him in the pages of the “Never Trump” Washington Post and other establishment newspapers.

The damning news was that there are reportedly transcripts of Flynn speaking with the Russian ambassador—before Trump was inaugurated president. The conversations were recorded during routine monitoring of foreign officials’ communications in the U.S.

The American public should know what this is about. I have a hard time believing Flynn was a traitor. But I don’t have a hard time believing that arrogance and foolishness are necessary prerequisites for a hard public fall.

What’s astounding about this is that news reports on Flynn’s conversations with the Russian ambassador also mentioned something else.

They mentioned the existence of many intelligence community sources, and these many intelligence sources presumably read the transcripts and leaked their contents to reporters.

That’s what is amazing. That the intelligence community records the conversations of a private citizen and leaks to damage and weaken a president.

Liberals—who once prided themselves on being civil libertarians—are overjoyed. They don’t question their good fortune. They celebrate.

Now Trump is in open, public war with American intelligence, and liberals cheer on the intelligence community leakers.

Trump declared his war with American intelligence on his Twitter account and then did so in person as he stood in the White House at a news conference with Israeli Prime Minister

By JOHN KASS

Chicago Tribune



John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may send him email at jkass@chicagotribune.com.

Benjamin Netanyahu.

“I think he’s (Flynn) been treated very, very unfairly by the media—as I call it, the fake media, in many cases—and I think it’s really a sad thing that he was treated so badly,” Trump said.

“I think in addition to that, from intelligence, papers are being leaked, things are being leaked,” said the president, adding that such leaks were a “criminal action, criminal act.”

The president’s references to Flynn are awkward and politically self-serving.

But the president’s reference to the intelligence community—in his government—is an open declaration of war. And it’s dangerous.

Democrats are on the outs, so they love this story about Flynn. It feeds into their belief that Trump is some tool of Russian strongman Vladimir Putin. It’s not whether they believe it that matters. What matters is that they see a way to sear this deeply upon the American mind before the 2018 elections.

Democrats will continue to push this theme, even if it means celebrating a possible takedown of administration officials by American intelligence, and the many sources of those reports.

So why aren’t liberals more concerned, when once they’d be outraged about authoritarian tactics?

For the same reasons they weren’t concerned about presidential overreach when their guy was president, with his imperial pen and his phone.

Because for many Democrats, just like for many Republicans, it’s all about power, isn’t it? And ideals—even those which help keep the republic—be damned.

Trump’s regulation-cutting order could be his most dangerous

Though the travel ban received considerably more attention, another recent Trump administration executive order should also be the target of nationwide street protests.

The order is meant to slash unnecessary regulations. President Trump’s proposal is quite simple. For every new regulation, knock out two others. And require each regulatory agency to offset the full economic cost of its new regulation by revoking existing rules. According to Trump, the order will fix this problem: it has become “impossible to start a new business.”

Meanwhile, official statistics show that new businesses have been on the rise since 2010.

Even though the topic sounds dry and much of the general public won’t notice, the order could have far-reaching implications for the well-being of every American. For example, if the Environmental Protection Agency found out that our drinking water is more polluted with toxic chemicals than we thought, it could only impose new rules if it scrapped at least two completely unrelated—but potentially very valuable—environmental regulations from its books.

This is quite upsetting for many reasons.

First, because this rule is completely arbitrary and, frankly, quite ludicrous. And second, because it may actually do severe damage to the ability of regulators to protect the American public from what a deregulated market might inflict on them. Americans will surely remember the great Enron scandal.

Fortunately, experts predict that the new executive order might not pan out exactly as intended. But no one really knows its complete implications yet.

A much deeper and more worrisome reason for concern is the completely flawed logic behind this proposal and the utter disrespect for a long-standing and proven American tradition based on first economic principles: cost-benefit analysis.

For the longest time, American regulatory agencies have been forced to defend any new regulation by demonstrating that the benefits to society exceed the costs. This burden is not to be underestimated. Unless a lot of careful research effort goes into designing a new regulation, it will not hold up in court if challenged. In 2015 for instance, the Supreme Court did not uphold the EPA’s mercury and air toxic standards as the agency failed to properly factor in the costs.

This procedure makes complete economic sense. If reducing air pollution from power plants costs industry \$1 billion but saves us \$10 billion in health-care expenditures, the regulation is worth having. The \$1 billion cost is irrelevant on its own. Should we never build roads because they cost money? Based on this reasoning, Michigan’s decision to switch Flint’s water supply from Lake Huron to the notoriously polluted Flint River was a real winner.

Clearly, you cannot judge a regulation as if there were no benefits. No reasonable economist would argue with that, and so should no Republican.

Of course, it is not always quite that easy. In reality, cost-benefit analysis can be daunting exercise.

Can it be contentious? Yes, as proven by a history of litigation.

Can there be mistakes? Sure, although follow-up studies many years later often show a tendency to overestimate compliance costs to firms. Firms tend to get innovative when facing a new challenge.

Just as I might check actuarial tables to decide whether to buy more life insurance, there is a science to assessing the value of regulation. There is always room for discussion about whether rules are too lenient or too stringent, but they are painstakingly and thoroughly crafted and reviewed. It is reasonable to ask questions about how costs and benefits are calculated, but the Republicans’ desire to ditch regulations regardless of societal

By ARTHUR VAN BENTHEM

The Philadelphia Inquirer



Arthur van Benthem is an energy economist and professor of business economics and public policy at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Readers may send him email arthurv@wharton.upenn.edu. He wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

benefits is simply outrageous.

The GOP’s frontal attack on landmark environmental regulation, carefully hidden as a pro-small business initiative, also marks a sharp departure from Republican economic thinking for many decades. Granted, there are exceptions that prove the rule.

Some prominent Republican leaders (and economists) such as George Schultz, Hank Paulson and James Baker have publicly advocated for stringent environmental regulations and taxes on pollution. Such senior statesmen recently tried to pitch a carbon tax to Trump’s advisers. There is a green coalition among GOP senators, and the ConservAmerica PAC lobbies for “climate realist” Republican candidates. So why are none of those voices loud and clear in today’s Washington? What happened to the generation of widely respected and influential Republican economists?

From the recent lack of pushback in Congress, one can only conclude that the GOP has become so unfriendly to (conservative) voices that defend basic principles of economics and science that such individuals have little choice but keep quiet. This is a sad state of affairs.

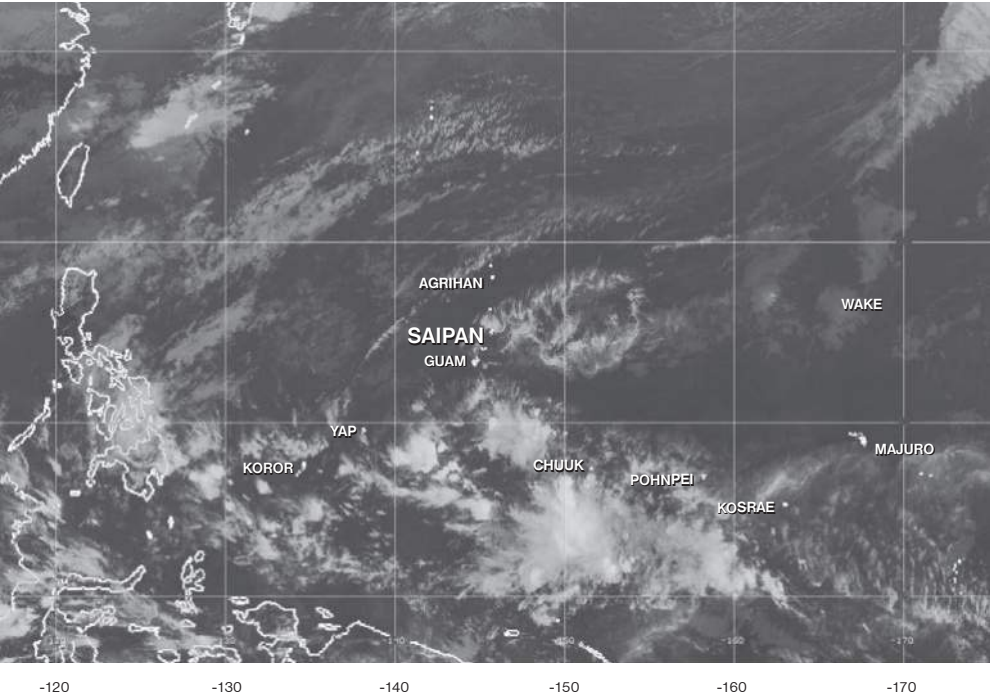
Trump says that fewer regulations will bring the American dream back. Let’s hope it does not turn into a pollution nightmare instead.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:28 AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The shear line that plagued the Marianas for much of the last week has finally dissipated. Drier weather with partly cloudy skies and only a few showers are expected through the coming week. The area of high pressure that help generate breezy conditions the last few days is moving away. Another high pressure center is moving out into the Northwest Pacific, but it is not as strong as the previous high. Expect winds of 15 to 20 mph today with little change through the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 61°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	48° / 25°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	77° / 68°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	76° / 67°	
London	Cloudy	55° / 50°	
Los Angeles	Showers	64° / 53°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	90° / 73°	
Melbourne	Windy	93° / 57°	
Miami	Cloudy	77° / 68°	
New York	Sunny	44° / 40°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 45°	
Paris	Cloudy	54° / 46°	
Pusan	Rain	55° / 39°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	59° / 43°	
Salem	Showers	75° / 57°	
San Francisco	Sunny	54° / 34°	
Seoul	Mixed	39° / 27°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	55° / 46°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:00 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.46	
9:46 AM	LOW TIDE	1.18	
2:59 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.63	
10:39 PM	LOW TIDE	0.14	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Wednesday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:03 AM	1:43 PM	-
Wednesday	2:52 AM	2:32 PM	-
Thursday	3:41 AM	3:23 PM	-
Friday	4:30 AM	4:16 PM	-
Saturday	5:18 AM	5:10 PM	-

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 10, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)				JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7	UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN	PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL	UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, HX HK Express, UO HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

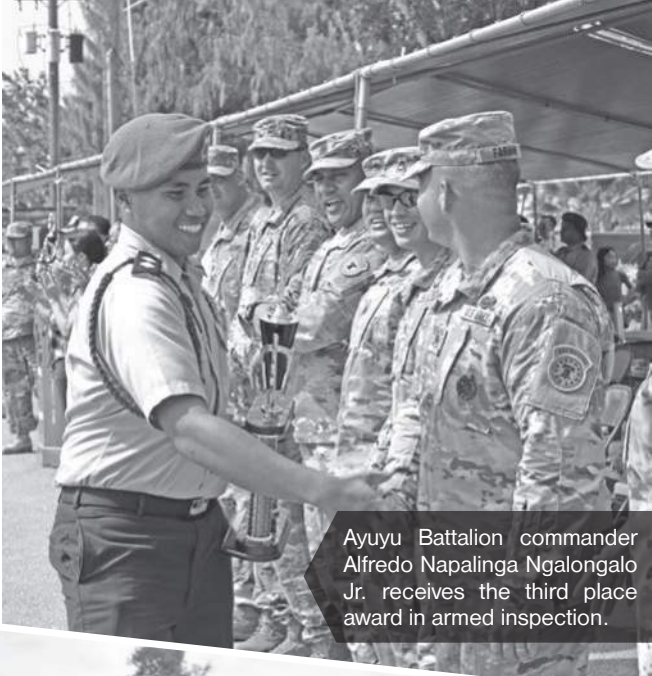
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						

2017 JROTC Drill Meet

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Kagman High School's Ayuyu Battalion awaits the results of last Saturday's drill meet held at the Marianas High School grounds.



Ayuyu Battalion commander Alfredo Napalinga Ngalongalo Jr. receives the third place award in armed inspection.

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion will again represent the CNMI in the National Drill Meet at Golden Bear in Torance, California.



Tinian Junior-Senior High School's Stallions Battalion celebrates after winning six trophies including first in the unarmed exhibition.

Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior-Senior High School's Chamorro Buck Battalion will join the Manta Rays in Golden Bear after winning the overall award in the unarmed category.



The Dolphins Battalion's unarmed exhibition team.

The Stallions return to Tinian with six trophies, including first in unarmed exhibition.



Marianas High School's Dolphin Battalion ends its four-year drought.



GAO to look at government debt in Marianas, US territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In a move to avoid any future financial crisis the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, is beginning a review of public debt in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and other U.S. insular areas. The review is required by PROMESA, legislation enacted last year to address the debt crisis in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

“GAO will report on how much each insular government owes and on their ability to pay their debt,” said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). “It will be an objective review of the debt

situation that the public in the Marianas and other insular areas can rely on.”

PROMESA, the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act, addressed Puerto Rico’s inability to meet its bond obligations by setting up an oversight board with broad powers over government finances. Puerto Rico owed some \$77 billion at the time the law was enacted.

Early drafts of PROMESA could have applied generally to all the U.S. insular areas, but Sablan worked to limit the law to Puerto Rico alone.

“In drafting PROMESA we had to be very careful to keep out any breach of local self-

government enshrined in the Marianas Covenant,” said Sablan. “And we were successful, I think, at protecting the Covenant.”

“We did include the one provision, however, that requires a report to Congress on debt held by insular governments. We want to avoid a situation in which the Marianas or any other insular area faces the kind of fiscal crisis that we see right now in Puerto Rico.

“GAO has already begun data collection in the Marianas to contribute to the PROMESA report and is working well with the Commonwealth government, I understand,” Sablan added.

PROMESA requires the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on territorial debt by June 30, 2017, and every two years thereafter.

On Feb. 8, Susan J. Irving, director of Strategic Issues at GAO, wrote to Sablan laying out the scope of the first report.

“We will review each territory’s single audit reports for the last 10 years (FY2005-2015),” Irving said, “and analyze bond prospectuses for each territory’s debt issuances for the same period.

“In addition, we will use internal controls criteria to assess whether the territories have sufficient data and infor-

mation to determine their ability to repay their public debt and take notice of potential future debt crises.”

Irving spelled out four objectives that align with the requirements of PROMESA:

1. Examine trends in public debt and its composition between fiscal years 2005-2015 and future public debt projections.

2. Examine trends in revenue and its composition between fiscal years 2005-2015 and future revenue projections.

3. Report on the drivers of public debt and their relative impact, including the effects of federal and territo-

rial laws, mandates, rules, and regulations.

4. Review the ability of each territory to repay its public debt.

“I am hopeful that the GAO study will give Congress—and, just as importantly, the public and local leaders in the Marianas—an accurate picture of the Commonwealth’s debt and the risks it may pose,” Sablan said. “I am also looking forward to ideas about what can be done to ensure that the local government can continue to provide essential services to our residents and can avoid the kind of debt crisis that the government of Puerto Rico is still facing.” (PR)

Marianas Printing to print Hyatt golf brochures and invitations



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First row, from left, Marianas Printing sales manager Rosebeth Gregorio; Marianas Printing treasurer Tomasa C. Camacho; Marianas Printing president Luis T. Camacho; and Hyatt Regency Saipan director of rooms Rosalyn Quintanilla. Second row, from left, Marianas Printing fine artist/printmaker Arnold Ondra; Marianas Printing press operator Felix Condino; Marianas Printing graphic artist Daniel Soliman; Hyatt Regency Saipan security manager Robin Eugenio; Marianas Printing camera and photographer Repair Bernard Lambat; Hyatt Regency Saipan marketing communications manager Maria Valentina Haberman; and Marianas Printing accountant Delia Marfil.

Marianas Printing has agreed to join Hyatt Regency Saipan’s 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic as a platinum sponsor by printing this year’s tournament brochures.

Marianas Printing will work closely with Hyatt’s Maria Valentina Haberman to provide this year’s tournament brochures featuring event sponsors, holes, and prizes.

Since the company opened its doors in 1978, Marianas Printing has become one of

the island’s longest business residents specializing in offset and large print. Owners Luis and Tomasa Camacho continue to work alongside their team even through their retirement.

“We are proud to be a locally owned company that has maintained its business throughout the highs and lows of the economy, and we welcome the opportunity to support the golf classic and its mission to help our community,” said Luis T. Camacho.

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa extends his gratitude to Marianas Printing. “Sometimes it’s the smallest detail that makes the biggest difference. Hyatt Regency Saipan is grateful for the platinum sponsorship of Marianas Printing.”

Sponsorship tiers for the 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic:

Platinum: \$2,000-plus in cash or in-kind donations
Gold: \$1,500+ in cash or

in-kind donations

Silver: \$750+ in cash or in-kind donations

Bronze: less than \$750 in cash or in-kind donations

Early Bird registration is open until Monday, April 17, 2016, at 4pm for a rate of \$100 per golfer.

Hyatt Regency Saipan will hold its 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic event on April 22, 2017, at LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort west course. For more information contact 234-1234 Ext. 26. (PR)

EEOC sues Hawaii firm for male-on-male sex harassment

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Three related Hawaii tour companies—Discovering Hidden Hawaii Tours, Inc., Hawaii Tours and Transportation, Inc., and Big Kahuna Luau, Inc.—violated federal anti-discrimination laws by allowing the ongoing sexual harassment of male employees, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charged in a lawsuit it filed last week.

According to EEOC lawsuit, the president of Discovering Hidden Hawaii Tours engaged in a pattern of sexually harassing young males after recruiting them to work for his companies.

The harassment, which spanned more than a decade, included inviting males to join in sex parties with him; showing them pornographic videos and photos; requiring them to show him their private parts in order to be considered for employment; making employment opportunities contingent upon engaging in sexual acts with him; and performing unwanted sexual acts on male employees.

The EEOC further contends that when employees complained about the harassment, the company failed to take corrective action. Some male employees felt that they had no other recourse but to quit. In some instances, the president retaliated against male employees after they complained about the harassment to their supervisors, according to the suit.

Such alleged conduct violates the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The EEOC filed its suit in U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii after first attempting to reach a prelitigation settlement through its conciliation process. The agency’s suit seeks back pay, along with compensatory and punitive damages for a

class of individuals, as well as injunctive relief intended to prevent any future discrimination and harassment in the workplace.

“All employees, regardless of gender, have the right to work in a harassment-free workplace and should never be forced to endure such abuse,” said Anna Park, regional attorney for the EEOC’s Los Angeles District, which includes Hawaii in its jurisdiction. “I applaud these young men for coming forward to tell their stories.”

Glory Gervacio Saure, director of the EEOC’s Honolulu office, added, “Harassment is alleged in 31 percent of all charges filed with the EEOC. When employers fail to address workplace harassment, employees often feel that they must choose between putting up with the abuse or quitting. No one should have to make that choice.”

According to the company’s website, www.discoverhiddenhawaiitours.com, Discovering Hidden Hawaii Tours provides guided tours of Oahu, Maui, the Big Island, and Kauai.

Individuals who may have experienced sexual harassment or have information pertaining to sexual harassment in connection with employment at Discovering Hidden Hawaii Tours should contact the EEOC at 808-541-3133 for more information.

Preventing workplace harassment through systemic litigation and investigation is one of the six national priorities identified by the Commission’s Strategic Enforcement Plan.

The EEOC advances opportunity in the workplace by enforcing federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. More information is available at www.eeoc.gov. (EEOC)

Naval Base Guam to conduct Command Assessment of Readiness and Training

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam, along with various Navy first responders, will participate in the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training on Feb. 20-24. CART is a Commander, Navy Installation Command program that evaluates installations on their response capabilities and ability to train their personnel in various scenarios.

The exercise, which will take place on Naval Base Guam to include Apra Har-

bor, involves training scenarios that replicate real-world events, and is designed to enhance the training and readiness of Navy security forces to respond to threats to installations and units. CART is not in response to any specific threat, but is a regularly scheduled exercise.

This exercise will incorporate blank ammunition fire as part of simulated attacks. Residents are advised to not be alarmed if they see or hear an

increase in military presence in the Naval Base Guam area. The exercise is scheduled to last from 8am to 4pm.

During CART, first responders will have to react to a crisis, result in elevating the Force Protection Condition of the base. Residents and patrons are advised that during the week the FPCON will change, requiring full ID card checks at the gates. Additionally, the Trusted Traveler program—a program that au-

thorizes DoD ID card holders to escort guests onto NBG—will be suspended during the higher FPCON. All vehicle occupants will be required to provide an approved base access credential.

There is the possibility of increased patrols and security activity on and around NBG as a result of this planned training.

As part of the exercise, the NBG Giant Voice system will be activated. (PR)

2017 Mock Trial Competition



From left, Nicole Ripple, James Sirok, Jesus Borja, Jennifer Dockter, and William Fitzgerald served as judges in the CNMI mock trial competition last Friday.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Members of the Mount Carmel School mock trial team do a quick prayer before the announcement of competition winners.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Marianas High School's Ann Norcio is presented with an honorable mention award as best prosecution attorney.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Charles Brasington, left, and Associate Commissioner Lynette Vilagomez congratulate Saipan International School's Shea Hartig, who got an honorable mention as best prosecution attorney.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Mount Carmel School's Arron Cushing receives the award for best prosecuting attorney for the second time since 2015.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Grace Christian Academy's Yu Jin Lee receives the best defense attorney plaque.

ERWIN ENCINARES



The Supreme Court Professionalism Award went to the Saipan Southern High School's mock trial team last Friday.

ERWIN ENCINARES



A nerve-racking pause fills the Supreme Court as the Grace Christian Academy and Mount Carmel School mock trial teams wait for the announcement of the second place winner of the CNMI mock trial competition.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Second place winners Grace Christian Academy pose for a photo.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Students of the Mount Carmel School mock trial team line up as they receive their first place medals for winning the CNMI mock trial competition 2017 last Friday.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Business

SpaceX launches rocket from the historic moon launch pad

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A SpaceX rocket soared from NASA's long-idled moonshot pad Sunday, sending up space station supplies from the exact spot where astronauts embarked on the lunar landings nearly a half-century ago.

It was the first flight from NASA's legendary Launch Complex 39A since the shuttle program ended almost six years ago, and SpaceX's first liftoff from Florida since a rocket explosion last summer.

The crowds at Kennedy Space Center watched eagerly as the unmanned Falcon 9 rocket took flight with a cargo ship bound for the International Space Station. They got barely 10 seconds of viewing before clouds swallowed up the Falcon as it thundered skyward.

As an extra special treat, SpaceX landed its leftover booster back at Cape Canaveral eight minutes after liftoff, a feat accomplished only twice before. Most of SpaceX's eight successful booster landings—rocket recycling at its finest—have used ocean platforms. As they did during the shuttle era, sonic booms heralded Sunday's return.

SpaceX employees at company flight headquarters in Southern California cheered as the 15-story booster landed upright at its designated parking spot at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

SpaceX chief Elon Musk celebrated the successful touchdown via Twitter.

"Baby came back," he tweeted.

The celebratory roar grew when the Dragon cargo ship successfully reached orbit a couple minutes later. It will reach the space station Wednesday, delivering 5,500 pounds of food, clothes and experiments.

It was SpaceX's second launch attempt in a row. Saturday's effort was foiled by last-minute rocket concerns. The repairs paid off, and even the clouds parted enough to ensure a safe flight.

Musk said he's honored to use Launch Complex 39A. The company hopes to launch astronauts from this very spot next year, bringing U.S. crew launches back to home soil after a longer-than-intended hiatus. SpaceX Mars missions, first robots then people, could follow from here.

If the pad weathered Sunday's launch well, another Falcon could be standing there for a satellite send-up in

just two weeks.

Kennedy Space Center's director Robert Cabana, a former shuttle commander who flew four times from 39A, is thrilled to see the pad used for

commercial flights like this "instead of just sitting out there and rusting away." It's a stark contrast, he noted, to the depression that followed the final shuttle mission in 2011.

Leader-in-training needs to stop passing buck

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.your-officecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



Q: A supervisor who reports to me tries to avoid responsibility for unpopular decisions. For example, when employees had to work on Saturday last week, "Jeff" told his group that they must do it "because my boss says so." While I don't mind being the bad guy, blaming me makes Jeff look like a puppet instead of a leader.

I have explained to Jeff that if he wants a career in management, he will have to become more comfortable using his authority. When communicating with employees, he should take ownership of business decisions and convey my directions as if they came from him. However, he seems to find this difficult. Do you have any suggestions?

A: The first question is whether Jeff understands the reasoning behind your instructions. After all, if you want him to own a decision, he must be able to explain why it was made. So if you tend to be a concise communicator, that could be part of the problem.

Thinking back on conversations with Jeff, ask yourself whether you have provided explanations or simply issued orders. There's a big difference between "tell employees they have to work on Saturday" and "we need everyone to pitch in on Saturday because we must fill a large order for an important customer."

Without logical answers, "because my boss said so" becomes the only reasonable response to employee questions. But if the rationale has been discussed, and Jeff continues to pass the buck, then you have some serious coaching to do.

For example: "Jeff, as a supervisor, you must try to help employees understand the reasoning behind decisions instead of blaming management for them. Next week, for instance, some people will have to work overtime to get a shipment out. Let's talk about the best way to explain this."

Get Jeff to describe exactly how he would deliver that information and then continue to rehearse until he gets it right. After repeating this process with a few more decisions, he should be able to manage on his own.

Q: Two months ago, I decided to quit my job because the manager was abusive and incompetent. He was so awful that several other employees resigned around the same time. My problem now is that whenever potential employers call this guy, he gives me an extremely negative review. According to company policy, only human resources can verify employment and managers are not allowed to give references. However, my former boss is obviously ignoring this rule. Should I just tell interviewers not to contact him?

A: Prohibiting contact raises a big red flag, so a better strategy is to avoid sharing his name altogether. Since employment inquiries should be directed to HR, simply list the human resources manager on your applications. If anyone requests your supervisor's name, politely reply that you are not allowed to provide that information.

If this HR group has historically been helpful, consider giving them a call to explain the situation. They might like to know that your nasty boss has been violating the "no references" policy. And they might really appreciate learning why so many of his people are leaving.

Nation

Trump steps up security aide search, focuses on health care

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—President Donald Trump brought more contenders for national security adviser to his Palm Beach club for in-person interviews Sunday, hoping to fill the job in the coming days as he seeks to refocus his young administration.

Trump also drilled down on policy during his working weekend at Mar-a-Lago, attending a strategy session on how to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, with top aides including Health Secretary Tom Price and Mick Mulvaney, director of the White House budget office.

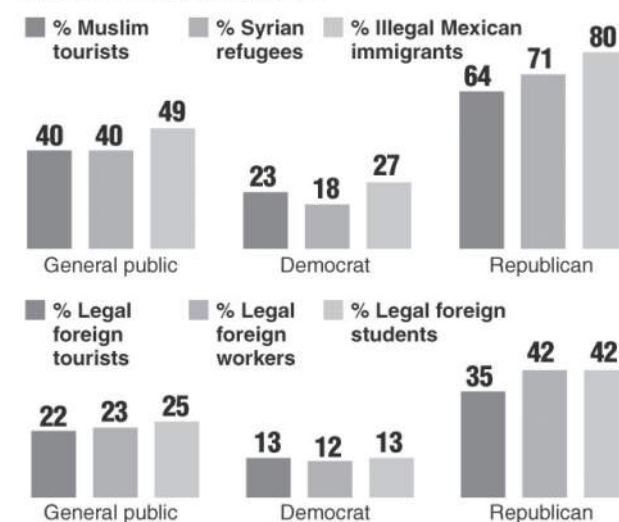
While in Florida, the president found time for a few holes of golf on Saturday and Sunday. And with his wife, Melania, he stopped by a fundraiser Saturday night at his private Palm Beach club, put on by the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Trump also took to Twitter to explain a comment he made about violence in Sweden at a Saturday rally. He suggested that some kind of major incident had taken place in the country Friday night, but on Sunday he said he was referring to something he saw on Fox News. That might have been a report Friday night about the influx of immigrants to Sweden.

Trump also spoke to the

National security risks

Which of the following groups of people do you believe pose a national security risk to the U.S.?



Source: YouGov
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

leaders of Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago.

After weeks of tumult in Washington, Trump returned to Florida and his private club for a third straight weekend. High on Trump's to-do list is finding a replacement for ousted Michael Flynn as national security adviser.

Scheduled to discuss the job with the president at Mar-a-Lago were his acting adviser, retired Army Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg; John Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations; Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster and the superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen.

White House spokeswoman

an Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump may interview more candidates and hopes to make the decision soon.

Trump pushed out Flynn last Monday after revelations that Flynn misled Vice President Mike Pence about discussing sanctions with Russia's ambassador to the U.S. during the presidential transition. Trump said in a news conference Thursday that he was disappointed by how Flynn had treated Pence, but did not believe Flynn had done anything wrong by having the conversations.

Trump's first choice to replace Flynn, retired Vice Adm. Robert Harward, turned down the offer.

Revised travel ban targets same places

WASHINGTON (AP)—A draft of President Donald Trump's revised immigration ban targets the same seven countries listed in his original executive order and exempts travelers who already have a visa to travel to the U.S., even if they haven't used it yet.

A senior administration official said the order, which Trump revised after federal courts held up his original immigration and refugee ban, will target only those same seven Muslim-majority countries—Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan and Libya.

The official said that green-card holders and dual citizens of the U.S. and any of those countries are exempt. The new draft also no longer directs authorities to single out—and reject—Syrian refugees when processing new visa applications.

The official spoke on

condition of anonymity to discuss the order before it's made public. The official noted that the draft is subject to change ahead of its signing, which Trump said could come sometime this week.

Asked about the revised order, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the document circulating was a draft and that a final version should be released soon. The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Wall Street Journal also reported that the current draft of the revised order focused on the seven countries but excluded those with green cards.

Trump's original executive order triggered chaos at airports around the world, as travelers were detained when the order rapidly went into effect, U.S. permanent residents

known as green-card holders among them. Attorneys provided legal assistance to those held and protesters descended on the airports as news of the order's implementation spread. In its original form, the order temporarily suspended all travel to the U.S. for citizens of those seven Muslim-majority countries for 90 days.

The original order also called for Homeland Security and State department officials, along with the director of national intelligence, to review what information the government needs to fully vet would-be visitors and come up with a list of countries that can't or won't make the information available. It said the government will give countries 60 days to start providing the information or citizens from those countries will be barred from traveling to the United States.

Asia

Ex-cop says Duterte paid him, others to kill crime suspects

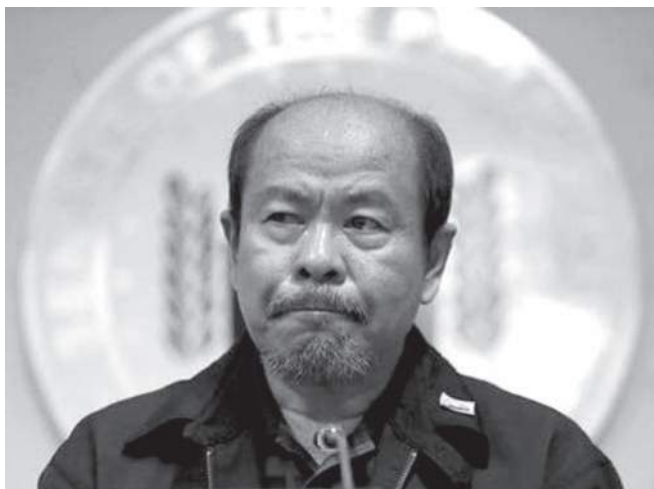
MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A retired Philippine police officer said Monday that President Rodrigo Duterte, when he was a mayor, ordered and paid him and other members of a so-called liquidation squad to kill criminals and opponents, including a kidnapping suspect, his family and a critical radio commentator.

Human rights lawyers who presented Arthur Lascanas at a news conference said his allegations could be grounds for impeaching Duterte. There was no immediate comment from Duterte or his office.

Duterte has denied his administration backs unlawful killings of suspects under his deadly crackdown against illegal drugs that is feared to have killed more than 7,000 mostly drug users and petty drug pushers since he took office in June.

The killings under the crackdown, an expansion of his anti-drug campaign when he was a longtime mayor of southern Davao city, have alarmed the United States, other Western governments and the U.N. rights officials.

In many public speeches



An emotional retired police officer Arthur Lascanas tells a news conference at the Philippine Senate in suburban Pasay city, south of Manila, Philippines, Monday, Feb. 20, 2017.

Duterte has told policemen to defend themselves if drug suspects fight back and has openly threatened drug lords and dealers with death.

Lascanas's comments came after he denied to a Senate hearing last year that he had been involved in any extrajudicial killings in Davao. He testified at the inquiry last October after he was implicated by another witness, Edgar Matobato, a former militiaman who said Duterte ordered him and others to kill criminals in

gangland-style assaults that left hundreds of people dead.

Breaking into tears at one point, Lascanas said Monday he was speaking up because he was bothered by his conscience, including his role in the deaths of his two brothers, whom he ordered killed because they were drug users.

"I had my own two brothers killed. Even if I end up dead, I'm content because I've fulfilled my promise to the lord to make a public confession," he said.

TV footage appears to show deliberate attack on N. Korean

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Security camera footage obtained by Japanese television appears to show a careful and deliberate attack last week on the exiled half brother of North Korea's ruler, while Malaysia said Monday it had recalled its ambassador to North Korea amid rising tensions between the nations.

The footage, obtained by Fuji TV and often grainy and blurred, seems to show two women approaching Kim Jong Nam from different directions as he stands at a ticketing kiosk at the budget terminal of the Kuala Lumpur airport. One—apparently a Vietnamese woman now under arrest—comes up behind him and appears to hold something over his mouth for a few seconds.

Then the women turn and calmly walk off in different directions. More footage shows Kim, a long-estranged scion of the family that has ruled North Korea for three generations, walking up to airport workers and security officials, gesturing at his eyes and seemingly asking for help. He then walks alongside as they lead him to the airport clinic.

■■■

KUALA LUMPUR, Ma-

aysia (AP)—Malaysia's ambassador to North Korea has been recalled from Pyongyang amid rising tensions between the countries over the death in Kuala Lumpur of an estranged scion of North Korea's ruling family.

The Malaysian foreign ministry said in a Monday statement that it had recalled its ambassador "for consultations" and had summoned Kang Chol, North Korea's ambassador to Kuala Lumpur, "to seek an explanation on the accusations he made against the Government of Malaysia."

Kang said Malaysia may be "trying to conceal something" and that the autopsy on Kim Jong Nam was carried out "unilaterally and excluding our attendance." Kim Jong Nam is the half brother of North Korean ruler Kim Jong Un.

The statement called Kang's comments "baseless," adding it "takes very seriously any unfounded attempt to tarnish its reputation."

■■■

Fuji TV has not revealed how it acquired the video footage, which was taken by a series of security cameras

as Kim arrived for a flight to Macau, where he had a home.

Kim, a portly man in his mid-40s, died shortly after the attack, en route to a hospital after suffering a seizure, Malaysian officials say.

Malaysia's deputy national police chief, Noor Rashid Ibrahim, said Sunday that Kim had told airport customer service workers that "two unidentified women had swabbed or had wiped his face with a liquid and that he felt dizzy."

Since Kim's death last week, authorities have been trying to piece together details of what appeared to be an assassination. Malaysian police have so far arrested four people carrying identity documents from North Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Investigators are looking for four North Korean men who flew out of Malaysia the same day as the attack, Malaysian police said Sunday.

Noor Rashid said the men arrived in Malaysia on different days beginning Jan. 31 and flew out of the country last Monday.

"I am not going disclose where they are," he told a room packed with journalists, adding that Interpol was helping with the investigation.

World

Iraqi forces launch offensive to drive IS from western Mosul

HAMAM AL-ALIL, Iraq (AP)—U.S.-backed Iraqi forces launched a major air-and-ground offensive Sunday to retake western Mosul from Islamic State militants and drive the extremist group from its last major urban bastion in Iraq.

Ground units pushed into a belt of villages outside the country's second-largest city, and plumes of smoke rose into the sky early in the morning as U.S.-led coalition jets struck militant positions southwest of Mosul and militarized Iraqi police fired artillery.

"This is zero hour and we are going to end this war, God willing," said Mahmoud Mansour, a police officer, as he prepared to move out.

The United Nations warned that hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped inside their homes in Mosul "are at extreme risk," with dwindling fuel, food and water and scarce electricity.

Iraq declared eastern Mosul "fully liberated" last month after three months of fierce fighting, but the militants have continued to stage attacks there, including two suicide bombings against government forces on Sunday.

The battle for western Mosul promises to be even more daunting, as the half of the city west of the Tigris River has older, narrower streets and is still heavily populated.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the start of

the latest operation on state TV. Using the Arabic acronym for IS, he said government forces were moving to "liberate the people of Mosul from Daesh oppression and terrorism forever."

Police units quickly entered the village of Athba, about 3 miles (5 kilometers) southwest of Mosul's international airport, encountering only light resistance. Separately, the Iraqi Army's 9th Division moved into the village of Bakhira, also southwest of the city, the Ministry of Defense said.

The U.S.-led coalition has been providing close air support throughout the 4-month-old Mosul offensive and carried out nine airstrikes against IS near Mosul on Saturday, Central Command said. U.S. special operations forces are embedded with some Iraqi units, and thousands of American soldiers are in Iraq to provide logistical and other support.

"We are very close to it, if not already engaged in that fight," U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told reporters in Abu Dhabi. He declined to go into further detail, saying he owed "confidentiality" to the troops.

Citing witnesses in western Mosul, the United Nations said nearly half of all food shops were closed and bakeries had shut down for lack of fuel and an inability to purchase costly flour. Prices

of kerosene and cooking gas have skyrocketed, and many of the most destitute families are burning wood, furniture, plastic or garbage for cooking and heating.

"The situation is distressing. People, right now, are in trouble," Lise Grande, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Iraq, said in a statement. "We are hearing reports of parents struggling to feed their children and to heat their homes."

Peter Hawkins, of the U.N. agency for children, said: "Three out of five people now depend on untreated water from wells for cooking and drinking as water systems and treatment plants have been damaged by fighting or run out of chlorine."

The humanitarian agencies were gearing up to aid 250,000 to 400,000 civilians who may flee because of the fighting, the statement said. The U.N. estimates 750,000 civilians may be left in western Mosul.

Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, a top U.S. commander in Iraq, said the Iraqi forces are an "increasingly capable, formidable and professional force."

"Mosul would be a tough fight for any army in the world, and the Iraqi forces have risen to the challenge," he said in a statement.

Iraqi forces drove IS from eastern Mosul last month, but the militants appear to have left behind sleeper cells to carry out attacks.

Blast in Somalia kills 34 in Mogadishu marketplace

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Somalia's new president visited victims wounded by the Mogadishu car bomb that on Sunday killed 34. President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed offered a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those who planned the blast.

The explosion hit a busy marketplace in the western part of the capital, said police Capt. Mohamed Hussein.

"It was a horrific and barbaric attack only aimed at killings civilians," he said from the scene of the blast.

Sabriye Abdullahi, an ambulance driver told The Associated Press that some of the injured victims died on their way to the hospitals.

"Many of them suffered extensive third degree burns and others were burned beyond recognition," he said.

The blast from a car parked

near a restaurant went off when shoppers and traders were gathered inside the market, said district commissioner Ahmed Abdulle.

Mohamed Haji, a butcher who suffered shrapnel wounds, pointed to a clothes shop devastated by the blast. "Someone had parked the car here and left before it was detonated," he said. Pieces of wood and metal sheets on the ground were all that remained of the shop.

Women sobbed and screamed outside the market as rescue workers moved bloodied bodies and wounded victims into ambulances.

"It's a painful carnage," said Ali Mire, a government soldier who was helping a friend with shrapnel wounds.

The powerful explosion was the first major attack since Somalia's new president was elected on Feb. 8.

Although no group has yet claimed responsibility, it bears the hallmarks of Somalia's Islamic extremists rebels, al-Shabab. In addition to visiting the wounded in hospital, President Mohamed condemned the blast in a tweet, saying that it shows the "cruelty" of al-Shabab.

A few hours before the blast, al-Shabab denounced the new president as an "apostate" and vowed to continue fighting against his government.

Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano, in a statement condemning the attack, said that "Italy remains solidly on Somalia's side in the process of the country's stabilization." He added that "together we will act so that the terrorists don't succeed in stopping the path of peace and reconciliation that is underway."

Focus

Americans on Presidents Day: Admiration, fear mark holiday

By MICHELLE R. SMITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—The United States on Monday marks Presidents Day, a holiday that's taking on a new meaning for some Americans this year as President Donald Trump—to the dismay of some and delight of others—upends traditional notions of the office.

The holiday began as a celebration of George Washington's birthday, Feb. 22, and its official name remains Washington's Birthday.

Throughout the 19th century, communities celebrated with parades and fireworks, said Evan Phifer, a research historian at the White House Historical Association. In the late 1800s, Feb. 22 became a federal holiday.

The holiday was moved to the third Monday in February in 1971, creating a three-day weekend for many workers.

"There was fear when the holiday was moved to the third Monday that it would lose the distinction of Washington's birthday, and people would forget his legacy," Phifer said.

To some extent, that has happened. Abraham Lincoln's birthday is Feb. 12, and many people now associate both presidents with the holiday. It has also become a retail holiday, where shoppers can get deals on cars, furniture and other goods during Presidents Day sales.

The Associated Press spoke with people around the country about their ideas about Presidents Day, the presidency and how it is changing.

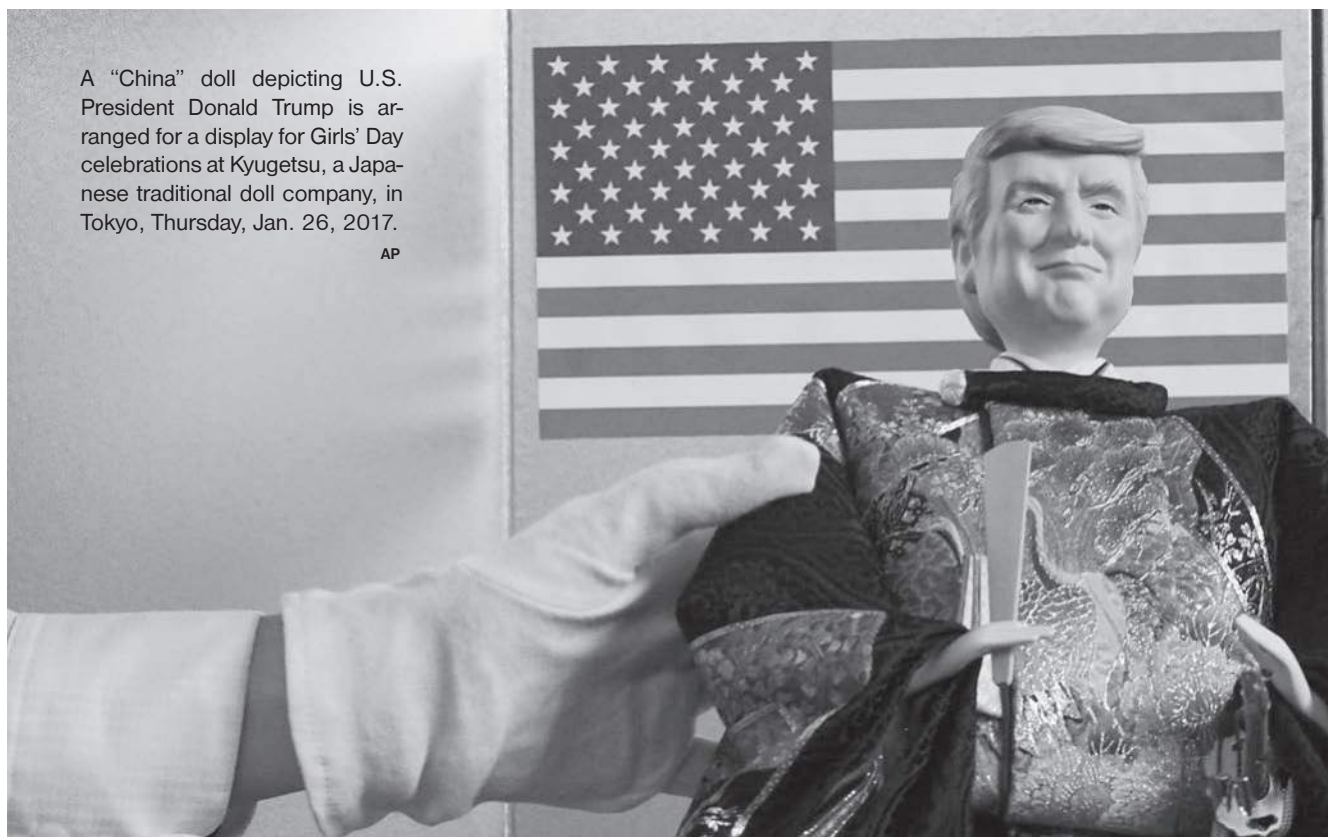
Jack Warren is executive director of the Society of the Cincinnati, the nation's oldest patriotic organization, founded in 1783. George Washington was the first president general of the group.

He calls the idea of Presidents Day "wrongheaded" and said referring to Washington's Birthday as Presidents Day is a reflection of how out of touch we are with our revolutionary origins.

"The revolution George Washington led created the first great republic since antiquity. It articulated ideals of universal liberty, natural rights and equality that have shaped the entire history of our country and have reached beyond it," he said.

"We don't need a holiday to commemorate the presidency. We do need one to commemorate our greatest national leader."

Curt Viebranz is president and CEO of George Washington's Virginia estate, Mount Vernon. He expects between 10,000 and 15,000 people to



A "China" doll depicting U.S. President Donald Trump is arranged for a display for Girls' Day celebrations at Kyugetsu, a Japanese traditional doll company, in Tokyo, Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017.

AP

visit on Monday.

"We wouldn't have a country without him," he said. "We wouldn't have a republic."

Many of the formal traditions of the presidency that survive today were established by Washington, he said, such as the open-air inauguration. But recent presidents are also different.

"He's not a man who would have been tweeting, for sure. It's not going to happen," he said.

These days, people have a more informal connection to the institution: "It's sort of the end of leadership as we know it, where the leader sets himself apart."

Juathawala Harris, 67, of Baltimore, was on a trip to Dallas that included a visit to the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, which is dedicated to telling the story of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Harris, who works as a manager for a dialysis unit, said Presidents Day meant more to her in the past.

"We've lived through presidencies, and they have always been men that we look up to. That is not so for me now," said Harris, who voted for Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

"I am fearful now, and I've never been fearful in all of my years," she said, adding that she is scared the country may be moving toward a war.

Presidents Day, she said, now feels tarnished.

Robin Allweiss, a 56-year-old attorney from Tampa, Florida, considers herself a patriot and takes Presidents Day seriously—especially so this year. She is a Trump supporter and thinks he's vastly different than

any other president in the country's history.

"He relates to us. He gives us a feeling that he could be our father, our brother, he could be our cousin or our best friend, and that's what makes him so different. He doesn't care what anybody thinks. What he wants to do is make America great again," she said.

"Donald Trump cares about us. And no other president in the history of the United States, or even any foreign leader, has cared about his country as much as Donald Trump."

Barbara Perry, presidential studies director at the non-partisan Miller Center at the University of Virginia, has been fascinated by presidents since she was 4 years old and her mother took her to see John F. Kennedy speak one month before he was elected.

Children as young as 6 have a sense of the president—who he is and what he does—long before they understand Congress or the judiciary, she said, and teaching children about the president is an important way to help them understand our government.

"I still have somewhat of a childlike vision of the presidency," she said. "I know my faith is not misplaced. I know we have had heroic presidents. Even the ones who were not great still were, by and large, great people."

The presidency began to demystify under Franklin Roosevelt, who created personal connections with Americans through his radio "fireside chats" in the depths of the Great Depression, she said.

That familiarity eventually "ended up breeding contempt, I think, for normal presidents,

or traditional presidents."

"In the end, this has led to a Donald Trump, a populist demagogue in the White House," she said. "The Trump presidency, based on the baser instincts of people, is painful to me. It feels like a desecration."

Deen Brown, 94, of Oakdale, Connecticut, conducted submarine war patrols for the Navy during World War II.

Brown said he has early memories of conversations in his home about Herbert Hoover, president from 1929 to 1933.

"What is most impressive to me, and I still believe this firmly today, is the awe of the momentous decisions that they're called on to make. It is just beyond belief. And this was true for President Roosevelt and also for President Harry Truman, and it may be coming true today," he said. "And very often, they don't get to choose between right and wrong. That's too simple. ... They must choose one of the wrongs and maybe the one that's least wrong."

President Donald Trump has already changed the way people see the presidency, he said, because he's a businessman who is being more decisive than some of his predecessors.

"He certainly deserves the respect of the nation," he said.

Rhonda Bicknell, 39, who is in real estate investment, is based in Phoenix but spends most of the year traveling in a motor coach.

She said Presidents Day to her is "really a day to honor that person that actually does a pretty thankless job—not matter what party you are in."

A Democrat who voted

for Hillary Clinton, she said presidents she has admired include Barack Obama and John F. Kennedy.

She feels that President Donald Trump is "disgracing" the presidency.

"I don't think that this president has much class, or integrity, or even intelligence, to be honest," Bicknell said. "So I think he's affected the presidency in a negative way, and I think that the rest of the world feels the same."

George Davenport, 23, works two jobs—one as a dishwasher and the other as a street sign-holding Statue of Liberty for a tax preparation service in St. Petersburg, Florida. He has two toddlers, and affordable education is his biggest concern for the future.

Presidents Day doesn't mean much to him.

"It's really just another day where I work, and a day off for kids," he said.

Wendy Nelson, 59, a hairdresser in Helena, Montana, expects a busy day on Presidents Day, as legislators and government workers come in for haircuts and other services. "They have that day off. I don't," she said.

"Presidents Day means a celebration of leadership that we have in this country," Nelson said. "We have independence, and we pick those people."

On Election Day, she picked Donald Trump. "I wanted to see change. At first I thought he was kind of a scary guy. But the more I listened to him, the more I realized he's very independent, too. And that's what this country's about."

Helen Heenan, 69, was visiting The President's House on Wednesday. It's a permanent in-

stallation on the footprint of the home and executive mansion of Presidents George Washington and John Adams when Philadelphia was the capital.

Heenan, an American citizen and retired IT worker who lives in London, said Presidents Day is a reminder "that the government is not just the president. It's the judiciary and it's the legislature," she said. "I think that is the lifeblood of the American system and constitution, and the great presidents we have will respect that."

Heenan, who voted for Hillary Clinton, said she thinks President Donald Trump is testing the idea of the presidency "to the limits" but a positive outcome is that his actions are making people think about the role of the president.

George Cleveland, 64, of Tamworth, New Hampshire, was born into politics; his grandfather was President Grover Cleveland, who was elected in 1884 and 1892.

He will be spending Presidents Day taking a friend to the hospital to have shoulder surgery.

"What does Presidents Day mean to me? Well, it's a nice idea to think that we'd all kind of take a day and review American history and the high points and the low points and what some of the presidents did and perhaps didn't do," he said. "I'm afraid we don't do that. Presidents Day right now seems to be really more of a holiday."

Nareg Fradjian, 32, a photographer who lives in Pasadena, California, was among the 3,000 people to become a U.S. citizen during a Los Angeles ceremony on Wednesday. Fradjian is from Armenia and has been in the U.S. for the past 16 years.

"Any president, they work super hard. It's either four or eight years. They live and breathe their job every single day," said Fradjian.

He said he would have voted for Trump if he had gotten his citizenship in time.

"It's awesome to have that one designated day just to say 'Thank you.' This year, morale is down. We don't know where we are as a country. It's crazy," he said. "Presidents Day is going to be another day for people to do marches, just say a lot of negative things about the current president."

Felicia Paul, who lives on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana, voted for Hillary Clinton.

"My fears and my hopes as a Native person is that he thinks about the Native people, our treaty rights," Paul said.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

Why roll a 7 when you can drive
BMW's redesigned **5 Series?**

AP
The 2017 BMW 5 Series' steering is light and numb, spoiling an otherwise capable car that, when pushed, performs like a BMW 5 Series should.

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The latest version of BMW's flagship 5 Series sedan offers the same good looks as the bulkier 7 Series but serves them up in a smaller package with a smaller price tag to match.

The seventh-generation 5 Series is being offered as the 530i, base price \$51,200, and the 540i, base price \$56,450.

You would be forgiven for wondering if the models are actually new, as the cars don't look dramatically different from those that came before. But look closer. The hood is smoother, and the grille is larger. On the side, there's a crease that runs the length of

the body. Subtle stuff? Perhaps. But in Germany, this constitutes a redesign.

As you'd expect, BMW's midsize sedan is once again offered with rear-wheel drive or all-wheel xDrive — as the automaker calls its patented system — for an extra \$2,300. While the new 5 Series has dropped 137 pounds through increased use of aluminum, magnesium and high-strength steel, it lacks the 7-Series' exotic carbon core structure. Still, the models share many other commonalities.

Before we get to that, though, a little background is in order.

The 530i comes with a 248-horsepower turbocharged 2-liter inline four-cylinder engine used in lesser BMWs, while the 540i has a more potent 335-horsepower 3-liter inline six-cylinder engine.

Other variants are scheduled to follow, including the M550i xDrive with a fire-breathing 456-horsepower turbocharged V-8, as well as its Bizarro World opposite, the 530e plug-in hybrid with an estimated 248 horsepower emanating from its turbocharged four-cylinder engine and electric motor.

While none of that seems too different from the 2016 5 Series, notable changes have been made.

Consider the optional Integral Active Steering, which steers the rear wheels for added agility and stability at speed. Less delightful is the Active Driver Assistant Plus option, which adds semi-autonomous driving assistance at highway speeds. It's not that bad, I suppose, as it does take the pain out of rush hour stop-and-go crawl by maintaining the vehicle's speed for you.

NUTS & BOLTS

- Base prices: \$51,200
- Engine: Turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder
- Horsepower: 248
- Torque: 258 pound-feet
- Fuel type: Premium unleaded
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): Not available
- Wheelbase: 117.1 inches
- Length: 194.6 inches
- Cargo capacity: 18.7 cubic feet
- Curb weight: 3,878 pounds
- NHTSA rating: Not rated

The system also regulates the car's speed for highway exits and traffic circles. The car's Active Lane Keeping Assistant, however, proved truly devilish, steering the car force-

fully back into the lane as you try to clip an apex through a corner. The "ultimate driving machine?" Only if you don't order the Active Lane Keeping Assistant.

Of course, once behind the wheel, you might be surprised to find the driving experience prioritizes comfort as much as driving enthusiasm. The steering is light and numb, spoiling an otherwise capable car that, when pushed, performs like a BMW 5 Series should. Tackle the twisties and the car rewards you as you'd expect, displaying an athleticism that its steering feel doesn't suggest. The same can be said of the car's compliant ride, which doesn't telegraph its abilities, yet has them, as the car corners with the control and ease expected from a 5 Series.

Enhancing its quiet, comfortable, yet incredibly com-

petent attitude is a quietly opulent cabin that spoils its occupants with iDrive 6.0 on a standard high-resolution 10.25-inch screen. BMW's infotainment interface will provide hours of entertainment as you work through all of the adjustments offered, as well as optional gesture control, which was cribbed from the all-new BMW 7 Series. Wireless charging, Apple CarPlay, multicolor head-up display, ambient lighting and a Wi-Fi hotspot are standard. See? I told you; it's enough to indulge your inner techie.

Well equipped, the 530i sedan will cost somewhere north of 60 grand, with a personality not unlike that of a shrunken 7 Series. While still very much a driver's car, the 2017 BMW 5 Series indulges its occupants as well. And isn't that what a great luxury sedan should do?

How to know when a pothole has caused real damage

Q: With all the storms we have been having lately, my car has taken some abuse from potholes and from dragging its bottom over rocks, gravel and tree parts. How can I know if the car has been damaged from any of these incidents? How likely is it that damage might happen from dragging bottom or from hitting a huge pothole? How can I tell if I should go to the shop to check or fix damage?

—Terry K.

A: It's hard to give you definitive answers because the undersides of vehicles greatly differ, as do the toughness of their suspension systems and their tire and wheel types. Any damage sustained will also, of course, depend on the severity of the impacts your vehicle incurs.

The overwhelming majority of passenger cars these days are front-wheel drive. Other than the exhaust system and parking brake cable running down the center of the underside, the center area of most vehicles is basically a tough metal pan. If one was to drag-bottom on a pile of gravel or loose road debris, the odds of serious damage would be low, unless the catalytic converter

were to strike something fairly hard. The front end of the car is generally the most tender, with powertrain parts and other critical parts generally only partially protected by a metal cross-member. The car's rear underside is also vulnerable, with the fuel tank and muffler susceptible to damage by impact.

Should a bottoming-out incident occur, I'd stop in a safe place afterward and look beneath the car for any dripping fluids or dangling parts. If oil, fuel or coolant are leaking, or parts are hanging down, call for a tow truck! Exhaust system misalignment may cause odd noises, but as long as nothing is hanging down or separated, driving further is likely OK. Brushing over debris is probably not too harmful, but actually striking something like a rock or a pavement edge certainly can be. Odd rattling or clanking noises after, or anything visibly disturbed or hanging down, justifies a trip to the repair shop.

A strong pothole strike with a tire or wheel should be followed up as soon as possible with a visual inspection of the tire for possible splitting or tearing. You should also check the rim edge for bending or splitting. Either of these outcomes calls for a possible spare installation, a tow or a trip to the shop. If no

UNDER THE HOOD

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.



visible damage is seen, check to see if the steering wheel is crooked or if the car now pulls to one side. If so, this means suspension or steering damage has occurred, wheel alignment will be affected, and there's a slight chance of a part failing soon. It's also possible to have no visible damage or immediate steering issues but to eventually encounter accelerated tire wear. Keep an eye out!

If you encounter issues like this even occasionally, it's still a good idea to have the underside of the car inspected during each oil change. While your shop's at it, also have them check each tire for damage and abnormal wear.

Life & Style

Old farmstead's history runs from John Brown to James Brown

From John Brown's raid to James Brown's wail, a stream of hot-blooded American history runs through a 19th-century farmstead in the Appalachian foothills of western Maryland.

The John Brown connection is well known. The restored log farmhouse near Dargan is where the abolitionist launched his ill-fated, 1859 seizure of a federal armory in nearby Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

Historians cite the failed attempt by Brown and a band of fervent followers to raid the federal arsenal as the opening salvo in the Civil War because it incited strong passions, especially in the slave-holding South. The farmhouse was designated a national historic landmark in 1973.

But the John Brown plaque and roadside marker 75 miles west of Baltimore don't mention the dazzling array of black entertainers who performed on the same site a century later, during the racially segregated 1950s and early '60s. James Brown, Ray Charles, Chubby Checker, Etta James, Otis Redding and dozens of others headlined at John Brown's Farm, a stop on the so-called Chitlin' Circuit before white audiences embraced rhythm-and-blues and soul music.

The now dilapidated concrete-block dance hall was built by an African-American fraternal organization, the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World—also known as the Black Elks—who bought the 235-acre property in 1950 for a retreat memorializing John Brown. The site's history is documented in a new book, "From John Brown to James Brown: The Little Farm Where Liberty Budded, Blossomed and Boogied."

"I think it should be considered the No. 1 black history site in the United States," said Ed Maliskas, author of the self-published volume.

Maliskas, a historian, musician and retired evangelical pastor, spent nearly eight years researching and writing the book after hearing about the R&B connection in a casual conversation in 2008, shortly after moving from Miami to Hagerstown.

His interview subjects included Al Baylor, 78, of Bunker Hill, West Virginia, who remembers donning a suitcoat and tie to dance to Frankie Lyman, Ike and Tina Turner and B.B. King.

"Anybody that was anybody came to John Brown's Farm," Baylor told The Associated Press in a



telephone interview. "I was in hog heaven."

Young black people from bordering states, Baltimore and Washington, D.C., met at the farm, said Hagerstown native Reginald Johnson, 74, who now lives in Rochester, New York.

"The people showed up on the weekend. That was our gathering place," Johnson told the AP. He remembers paying \$2 to attend dances that Maliskas said drew 400 to 500 people despite the farm's remote location down winding, country roads in a valley known as Frog Hollow.

The shows were part of the Black Elks' plan for creating a national shrine at the site for annual membership meetings, said the group's unofficial historian, Peggy Coplin of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. The organization—itsself a product of racial segregation—built the auditorium, two cottages and a stone entrance arch before financial constraints and convenience prompted a move to Winton, North Carolina, now the group's national headquarters. The Elks sold the Maryland property in 1966, seven months after James Brown starred in the last show, on Labor Day weekend 1965, Maliskas writes.

Coplin told the AP in a telephone interview that the group would like to see the site's Black Elks history promoted, but the organization has no money for it. Membership has fallen to about 250,000 from a mid-

century peak of 450,000, she said.

Both the farmhouse, known as the Kennedy Farm, and the dance hall are now owned by South Lynn, a Washington-area wood-flooring contractor, and his son and business partner South Lynn Jr., who share an interest in history.

The younger Lynn told the AP in a telephone interview that he put a new roof on the auditorium last summer but the building needs much more work. Through the broken window of a peeling red door, one can see stacks of flooring materials that the Lynns are storing there.

"I think it would be great to promote it," Lynn said, "if Maryland's into it."

Neither the Maryland Historical Trust nor the National Park Service, which helped restore the farmhouse, are aware of any publicly funded efforts to preserve or promote the dance hall, officials of those organizations said. But the nonprofit group Preservation Maryland hopes the state will at least provide funds to further document the building, which reportedly also served as a gay nightclub or disco in the 1970s, Executive Director Nicholas Redding said.

"It's just another layer of history we need to add to these places," Redding said. "From a preservation standpoint, it's just about telling a richer and more comprehensive story about our state, which is, I think, a positive thing for everyone." (AP)

In this Feb. 8, 2017 photo, author Ed Maliskas stands in the performers' dressing room of a dance hall in Dargan, Md., that hosted dozens of black performers including James Brown, Ray Charles, Etta James and Otis Redding during the racially segregated 1950s and early '60s.

AP

Milo Yiannopoulos, Larry Wilmore go head-to-head on 'Maher'

NEW YORK (AP)—While conservative provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos insulted comics Lena Dunham, Leslie Jones, Amy Schumer and Sarah Silverman, his appearance on HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher" was relatively tame—at least until the television cameras were turned off.

It was later, during an online-only "Overtime" segment of Maher's Friday night show, that two of Maher's three panelists hurled expletives at the Breitbart News senior editor.

Maher's booking of Yiannopoulos, author of the upcoming book "Dangerous," drew attention earlier this week when journalist Jeremy Scahill backed out of the show because of his "hateful diatribes." The conservative gadfly has become a lightning rod; his planned speech at the University of California, Berkeley, was cancelled earlier this month when protests erupted.

Maher, a free speech advocate, told Yiannopoulos that he thought he was "colossally wrong" on most issues, "but if I barred everyone from the show who I thought was colossally wrong, I would be talking to myself."

Yiannopoulos called Maher his "favorite liberal" and directed most of his ire at female comedians.

"Your side has gone insane," he

said. "The Democrats are the party of Lena Dunham. These people are hideous, mental people. The more the American people see of Lena Dunham, the fewer votes the Democratic Party is going to get."

Responded Maher about the "Girls" creator: "Let's not pick on fellow HBO stars."

The Breitbart editor said Schumer and Silverman "used to be funny before they contracted feminism." After the subject was brought up by Maher, he renewed hostilities with Jones that had begun with his review of the "Ghostbusters" film. Yiannopoulos' Twitter account was suspended last year after a series of racially insensitive tweets were directed at Jones, who is black.

On Maher's show, he called Jones "barely literate."

Still, the interview segment featured few harsh exchanges with Maher, and Yiannopoulos was not included in a panel discussion that featured comedian Larry Wilmore, author and counterterrorism expert Malcolm Nance and U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston, a Georgia Republican. But online, Yiannopoulos joined the other three to answer questions from viewers.

That's when things got interesting.

The starting-off point was when Yiannopoulos defended his criticism of a transgender person and saying, without offering evidence, that transgender people were involved in a disproportionate number of sex crimes. Wilborn objected, saying that reminded him of the attitudes people directed at gays and blacks to demonize them in society. He noted that for a long time, homosexuality was considered a disorder.

"Maybe it is," said Yiannopoulos, who is gay.

"Maybe you are," Wilborn said, "But most homosexuals are not."

Nance observed that Yiannopoulos seemed confused about who and what he was. When Maher tried to referee, Yiannopoulos said that he always seemed to have "awful" people on the show, "who are so stupid."

That's when Wilmore exploded, telling Yiannopoulos to "go f--- yourself." Maher defended Nance, telling Yiannopoulos that "this guy has done things that allow you to" live.

When the oddity of an openly gay man being seen as a leader of the alt-right movement was pointed out, Yiannopoulos said that "the worst people on the far left and far right all hate me."

'Lego Batman' stays No. 1, conquers 'The Great Wall'

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Great Wall" was a hit in China. In North America, it was a dud.

The most expensive film ever made in China and with a budget of \$150 million, "The Great Wall" was intended to prove that the world's no. 2 movie marketplace could produce Hollywood-sized blockbusters of its own. Though it ran up \$171 million in ticket sales in China, "The Great Wall" pulled in \$18.1 million in its North American debut over Presidents Day weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That was good enough for third place, falling behind last weekend's top two films, "The Lego Batman" and "Fifty Shades Darker." The Warner Bros. animated release easily led the box office again with \$34.2 million in its second week, sliding only 35 percent. Universal's "Fifty Shades Darker" sold \$21 million in tickets in its second week. The erotic sequel continues to play well overseas, where it led international business with \$43.7 million over the weekend.

But "The Great Wall" isn't a bomb. It has made \$244.6 million overseas and performed over the weekend in North America slightly better than some pundits expected.

Universal could still claim four of the top 10 films, the other two being "A Dog's Purpose" (\$5.6 million in its fourth week) and "Split" (\$7 million in its fifth week), so far the top film of 2017.

1. "The Batman Lego Movie," \$34.2 million (\$21.5 million international).
2. "Fifty Shades Darker," \$21 million (\$43.7 million international).
3. "The Great Wall," \$18.1 million (\$19 million international).
4. "John Wick: Chapter 2," \$16.5 million (\$15.6 million international).
5. "Fist Fight," \$12 million.
6. "Hidden Figures," \$7.1 million (\$7.3 million international).
7. "Split," \$7 million (\$8.9 million international).
8. "A Dog's Purpose," \$5.6 million.
9. "La La Land," \$4.5 million (\$31.7 million international).
10. "A Cure for Wellness," \$4.2 million (\$4.5 million international).

New Zealand judge upholds Kim Dotcom extradition ruling

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A New Zealand judge on Monday upheld an earlier court ruling that flamboyant internet entrepreneur Kim Dotcom and three of his colleagues can be extradited to the U.S. to face criminal charges.

The decision comes five years after U.S. authorities shut down Dotcom's file-sharing website Megaupload and filed charges of conspiracy, racketeering and money laundering against the men.

Dotcom, who lives in New Zealand, has been fighting extradition since then in a case which has moved with glacial slowness at times. And Monday's decision won't be the last, with the case likely to be appealed up to New Zealand's Supreme Court.

U.S. prosecutors say Megaupload raked in at least \$175 million, mainly from people using it to illegally

download songs, television shows and movies.

The New Zealand district court ruled in 2015 that Dotcom and the others were eligible for extradition on the charges.

High Court judge Justice Murray Gilbert found Monday that the district court made mistakes in its ruling but that those didn't alter the big picture.

Dotcom tweeted Monday: "We won but we lost anyway."

The U.S. argues that the site cost copyright holders, which included Hollywood's major movie studios, more than \$500 million. Prosecutors say intercepted communications show the men talking about being "modern-day pirates" and "evil."

Dotcom argues that he can't be held responsible for others who chose to use his site for illegal purposes, and that any



AP
In this Nov. 27, 2014, file photo, Kim Dotcom arrives at Auckland District Court in Auckland, New Zealand.

case against him should have been heard in civil court.

Born in Germany as Kim Schmitz, Dotcom has long enjoyed a flamboyant lifestyle. He was arrested in New Zealand in 2012 after a dramatic police raid on his mansion.

Out on bail soon after, he released a music album, started another internet file-sharing company called Mega, and launched a political party which unsuccessfully contested the nation's 2014 election.

In addition to Dotcom, who founded Megaupload and was its biggest shareholder, the U.S. is also seeking to extradite former Megaupload officers Mathias Ortmann, Bram van der Kolk and Finn Batato.

NEW YORK (AP)—World-class art, meet sweaty aerobics.

New York City's cavernous Metropolitan Museum of Art has been holding lively morning workout sessions this winter amid its prized masterpieces.

The 45-minute "Museum Workout" sends people in exercise attire chugging through 35 galleries, past paintings, sculptures, armor and other treasures, before the venerable Fifth Avenue institution opens to the public.

On a recent morning, an overnight snowstorm didn't deter any of the 15 people who'd signed up for the session.

It started with a warmup: calf stretches in the museum's grand limestone entrance and an easy jog out to the Bee Gees' hit "Stayin' Alive." Then came the speedy trek

NY's Met Museum offers exercise amid world-class art

through the galleries and up the preserved ornate staircase of the 19th century Chicago stock exchange.

There were squats in front of John Singer Sargent's "Portrait of Madame X," balancing on one leg before Henry VIII's rigid armor, a yoga pose before a bronze nude of the Roman hunting goddess Diana, and jumping jacks in-between, all to a soundtrack of disco and Motown hits.

Why bother traveling to a Manhattan museum—some did, from Pennsylvania, Kentucky and even California—just to exercise?

"This offers you amazing moments," said participant Oliver Ryan, who runs a New York corporate wellness

company. "We did our first stretch, and there in the vast gallery was Perseus holding the head of Medusa. What hit me was this was the TV of ancient times, a frozen moment from a story everyone knew."

The Met commissioned the innovative Monica Bill Barnes Dance Company for the project. It was choreographed by the two women leading the workout—Monica Bill Barnes herself and her dance partner, Anna Bass—along with Robert Saenz de Viteri, the company's creative producing director.

Bass said the team worked "obsessively" calculating how to keep a safe distance from the artworks. That means no wild swinging of

arms or legs, and exercising a minimum of 3 feet or so from any treasure.

Leading scantily clad, pumped up bodies around the artworks "really runs against the culture of being in a museum, being quiet and being still and walking slowly," said Barnes.

"We're in the business of making strange things," she added with a wry smile, "bringing dance where it doesn't belong."

De Viteri helped guide the workout session in a vintage tuxedo and sneakers, holding a laptop attached to a speaker that channeled music and recorded narration by artist and author Maira Kalman, who selected the art and gallery route.

"Something very physical happens to me when I'm in a museum. I get this rush of excitement, this kind of tingle of mad, passionate arousal," Kalman's recorded voice said as the group did side-stretches in front of a stern-looking bust of American founding father Benjamin Franklin.

The workout ends with everyone lying on their back, eyes closed, on the floor of the Met's luminous American wing. This yoga pose, called savasana, is meant to release tension from mind and body while absorbing the benefits of the dynamic exercises. Rising over the human stillness is Augustus Saint-Gaudens' ancient goddess—the resplendent, gilded Diana, about to

release her arrow.

The first sessions, from Jan. 19 through Feb. 12, were sold out months ago. The interest was so intense that more were added, through March 9, and they're also sold out. Participants, both men and women, have ranged in age from 13 to 85.

Museum officials say there are no immediate plans for a future staging of what is essentially a "performance piece" that took three years to create, with each participant movement matching music and visuals moment by moment.

"The Museum Workout" was commissioned by the museum's MetLiveArts performance series and partly funded by the Jerome Robbins Foundation and One World Fund.

Wife whose husband fights dirty may need a clean break

DEAR ABBY: Because I had a promiscuous past prior to getting married, it was understandable that my husband and I have gone through some rough patches. It's been three years since our wedding, and he still can't let it go sometimes. A recent argument just escalated into his calling me a whore and stupid. We have a beautiful little girl together, so it's not like I can just up and go whenever I want.

When is enough, enough? Where is the point that I can give in to the thought that I can't do it anymore? Or is this just what marriage is? We have already done counseling, and it just made it worse. I feel really alone, so can you please give me some feedback?

ROUGH PATCH

DEAR ROUGH PATCH: If your husband knew about your promiscuous past when he married you, he has no right to throw it at you when he's angry. That's fighting dirty, and it never resolves the issue at hand. You are neither a whore nor stupid, and this is NOT what marriage is supposed to be. Good husbands build their partner's self-esteem; they don't undercut it the way yours is doing, because it is abusive.

Since the counseling you had didn't work, you must now

decide whether you need to try again with a different therapist or talk to a lawyer. If I were living like this, I know what I would do, but the only person who can decide what's best for you and your daughter is you.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been friends with a bachelor for 30 years. Over the past year we have had a problem with him that is seriously straining our friendship. When he uses the bathroom in our home, he leaves a terrible mess. There's urine all over the toilet and a large puddle on the bathroom floor. The last time he was here, it was obvious he had stepped in it and tracked it around as he left the room! I'm extremely upset and angry.

In addition, it's obvious he doesn't wash his hands, as the sink and soap are bone-dry. I don't want him to come over anymore. My husband wants me to be more forgiving. We're both too embarrassed to say anything to him. Should we stop being his friend, or have a frank talk? He is oblivious and continues to contact us and wants to visit. We either put him off or try to arrange to meet him elsewhere. It is becoming unbearable.

DISGUSTED IN LOUISIANA

DEAR DISGUSTED: It would be a shame to throw

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

away a 30-year friendship without trying to save it. Could there be a physical problem that has caused this change in your longtime friend—a bladder problem, or one with his eyesight?

You are all adults, and longtime friends should be able to speak frankly with each other. Because your husband is closer to him than you are, he's the one who needs to talk to him "man to man" and point out the fact that there is a problem and then ask what might be wrong.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

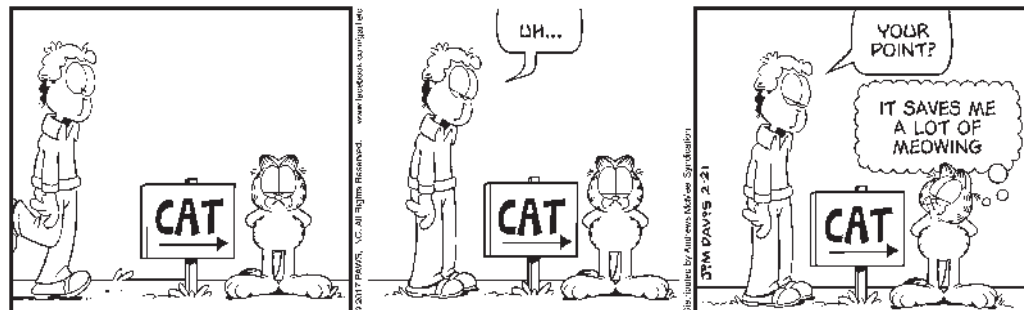
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



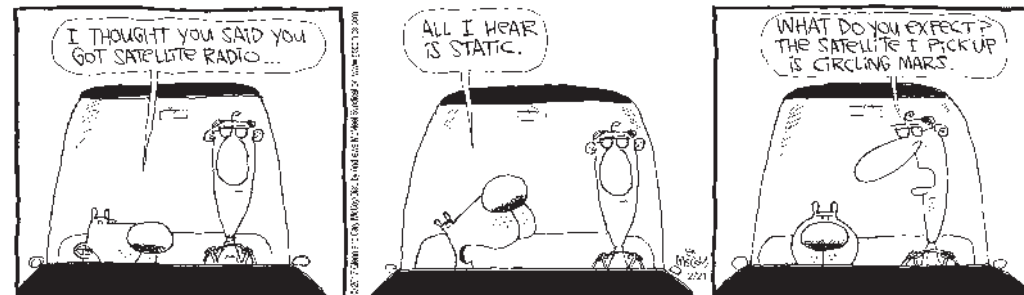
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nullify
5 To and —
8 Cornfield intruder
12 Cook-book author
13 Attorney's field
14 Aspiration
15 Tropical fruit
17 "Yeah, right"
18 Wd. from Roget
19 Tin Man's need
20 Senses
21 Mess up
22 Sprite
23 Lion's color
26 Truck type
30 Slightly
31 Zero
32 Top-notch
33 Late-spring beetle
35 Dot on a computer screen
36 Tease
37 Lair

DOWN

1 Bigwigs
2 Paris airport
3 One-named super-model
4 Author Brown
5 Talent
6 Bar
7 Possess
8 Tribal leader
9 Judicial garb
10 Autobahn auto
11 Saturates
16 Whig's rival
20 Ga. neighbor
21 Put on a show
22 Right angle
23 Mahal prece-
24 —
25 Dhahi
26 Victory
27 Jury
28 Away from
29 Costa —
31 Central point
34 Occupation, for short
35 Drudge
37 Celtic priest
38 Genghis —
39 Carson's successor
40 Pakistani language
41 Leak slowly
42 Big bash
43 Bowling targets
44 Cinch
46 Gaiety
47 Tow-boat

Solution time: 22 mins.

C	C	B	A	B	S	M	U	F	F
A	T	O	P	M	I	A	E	L	L
S	T	A	R	S	N	L	E	T	O
K	O	R	E	A	D	E	B	T	
	S	K	A	M	U	T	A	T	E
A	C	S	A	L	E	S	H	E	E
B	R	A	G	L	E	D	E	R	A
A	L	I	A	S	C	O	W	P	K
R	C	L	L	O	N	G	R	R	
	U	A	U	Y	E	A	S	T	
J	A	D	E	C	S	I	S	U	L
A	G	A	R	H	E	R	S	N	U
B	C	N	Y	O	R	S			

Yesterday's answer 2-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ellen Page, 30; Jennifer Love Hewitt, 38; William Baldwin, 54; Kelsey Grammer, 62.

Happy Birthday: Look for the good in everything that unfolds this year. Use charm and thoughtfulness to raise awareness about the matters that concern you the most. Participate in events that will give you a platform to express your views and offer suggestions. Use persuasive tactics to get others to pitch in and help. Strive for perfection. Your numbers are 10, 13, 22, 27, 32, 36, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your emotions level regardless of what is inferred or who steps in your way. Own what you do and use your knowledge and experience to overrule anyone who challenges you. Don't argue, state facts. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Check out destinations that interest you or make plans to get together with someone you don't get to see very often. Travel will lead to knowledge and information that will inspire you to take on something new and exciting. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Trust in yourself before you take someone else's word as truth. Hype up what you want others to know and you will find out who is eligible to contribute something worthwhile to your pursuits. Gains are apparent. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Learn as you go. Your astute way of observing what's going on around you will help you make a personal decision that can improve your most valued relationships. Choose to walk

away from those who have taken advantage of you. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Map out a plan and work toward making it happen. Stay focused on the way you envision your future. Personal improvements can be met if you are disciplined and willing to do things differently. Adapt and excel. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Joint ventures will not be in your best interest. Gather all the information you can, but look for alternative ways to move forward on your own. It's OK to discuss your plans as long as you don't get involved in financial partnerships. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Domestic situations will be difficult to deal with. Emotions will be due to unwanted meddling or impulsive actions. Remain calm and do your best to talk your way through any discord that you face. Love will conquer hate. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Spend more time at home sorting out what you want to do personally and how you can initiate reaching your goals. Determination and responding to what others suggest will help you make up your mind. Do what works best for you. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Problems while traveling or dealing with official matters will arise if you aren't fully prepared and don't have your course of action or direction mapped out well. Don't leave anything to chance. Make love, not war. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let anyone persuade you to head in a direction that doesn't feel right to you. Emotions will be difficult to control if you are drawn into a situation that makes you feel nervous or uncertain. Trust in your abilities. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your intelligence and willpower will help you bring about the changes you need to make in order to find your way to financial freedom. Contracts, negotiations and unexpected gains look promising. Physical improvements are featured. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An adamant mindset will help you reach your goal. Use your experience and call on people who have proven to be an asset in the past. Offer incentives and you will form a coalition that is bound to get results. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are gentle, caring and perceptive. You are soulful and accommodating.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		3		8				7
8		2	9				1	
			1		5		6	
			5				2	9
				3				
1	2			9				
7		4		1				
	8			5	4			3
5			2		9			

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	8	9	1	3	7	4	5	2
5	4	3	2	8	9	6	1	7
1	2	7	6	4	5	9	8	3
8	9	5	7	6	4	2	3	1
3	6	2	9	5	1	8	7	4
4	7	1	3	2	8	5	6	9
7	1	6	5	9	2	3	4	8
9	3	8	4	7	6	1	2	5
2	5	4	8	1	3	7	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★

2/21

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JANET RENO (1938-2016)

Solution: 7 letters

S N O I T A R T S I N I M D A
S E H C E E P S U P P O R T P
E S S E J M A G G Y F A T R P
C E R U N A M O W F C O O E O
C R E N T R A P I T R C U B I
U V T O E K Y C I N T A R O N
S E O T N S E O E E S R E R T
S M V N U R N Y L N R E D R E
M E T I R S G L I A I W O O D
R R L L E E I C S J F O R L A
I P A C N B S U I T S P E E E
F U I E T U C E S O R P D E H
W S R O N R E V O G I U L R E
A A T E N I B A C A S E O I L
L F E R R E L L I W E E H C P

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Actions, Administration, Appointed, Attorney General, Bill, Cabinet, Care, Case, Clinton, Courts, Eric, Ferrell, First, Governor, Head, Help, Henry Olaf, Holder, Jane, Law Firms, Maggy, Mark, Officer, Partner, Power, Prosecute, Rise, Robert, Role, Serve, Speeches, Success, Suits, Support, Supreme, Tenure, Toured, Trial, Voters, Will, Woman, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Apenitit
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS



3 Accountant/ Bookkeeper, minimum salary. Mail resume to Burger & Comer PC at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950

1 Welder, 3 mason, 1 carpenter, 1 electrician, 1 plumber & 2 Gen. maintenance & repair worker, minimum salary. Please mail resume to Blue Lagoon Realty Inc. P.O. Box



505478, Saipan MP 96950 or call 670-288-6903/04 look for Robert.

2 Accountant/ Bookkeeper, 8 Houseworker, 6 Landscaper, 2 waiter/waitress, 2 Heavy equipment operator, minimum salary. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan MP 96950.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-089
SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 07, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
**“ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY, CAPITOL HILL AREA, SAIPAN CNMI,
A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE”**

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENSION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmiipo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmiipo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 23, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-090
SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 7, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
**“INTENSIVE-LEVEL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF 50 HECTARES OF
PUBLIC LAND LOCATED IN THE CAROLINAS HEIGHTS REGION, TINIAN, CNMI
A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE”**

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENSION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmiipo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmiipo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 23, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-091
SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 7, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
**“UNDERWATER REMOTE SENSING SURVEY OF LAULAU BAY
A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE”**

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENSION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmiipo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmiipo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 23, 2017.**

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/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

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**NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF
EXCLUSIVE AGENT AGREEMENT**

This NOTICE is published to inform the public as follows:

1. Appointment of **YUN, BAI (a.k.a. Betty Bai)** as real estate agent for **Nikolay Zyabrin** was effectively terminated on **February 20, 2017.**

2. Real Property / Residence: The agent's termination is made in connection with a leasehold interests to a Navy Hill residence situated on Lot No. EA 219-1 -1, containing an area of 1,671 square meters.

3. Any persons who are interested in the above Real Property / Residence are advised to contact owner Nikolay Zyabrin directly by email at: zn.corporation@mail.ru.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-092
SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 7, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
**“HISTORIC PRESERVATION LEGISLATURE EVALUATION A PROJECT
UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE”**

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENSION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmiipo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmiipo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 23, 2017.**

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/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
INVITATION TO BID
ITB17-CHCC/PHEP-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 06, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM
OPENING DATE: MARCH 06, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

**“VEHICLE LEASE (SUV) 2 UNITS –
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION”**

COPIES OF THE ITB PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION- MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWERE BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXECUTIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Development Authority
2nd Floor CDA Bldg., Oleai, Saipan
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245 Fax: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POSITION VACANCY: Administrative Specialist II, Classified Position
LOCATION: Rota Office
ANNUAL SALARY: \$16,858.38 - \$20,484.60
CLOSING DATE: February 24, 2017

NATURE OF WORK
The position is under the supervision of the Office Manager, Saipan. The individual works in conjunction with Saipan personnel and require coordination with the various departments in order to accomplish a variety of responsibilities. This position is tasked with promoting CDA's mission in Rota. The position has some degree of independence such as the management of daily activities-revising workflow to suit the agency.

GENERAL DUTIES:

- Issues loan applications and explains basic application requirements.
- Organizes and coordinates CDA related functions and events.
- Organizes and coordinates deliveries and pick-ups and routes necessary documents for Board signature.
- Prepares and submits monthly activity report to Administration, Saipan.
- Receives and receipts all payments.
- Prepares and deposits collections on a daily basis.
- Prepares daily collection report and submits to Accounting Dept, Saipan.
- Submits daily receipts on a monthly basis to Accounting Dept. Saipan.
- Performs related work as assigned.

QUALIFICATION and OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS
Any combination equivalent to Bachelor Degree plus (2) years of related work experience in office management or staff. Knowledge of modern office practices and modern office equipment; Knowledge of MS Office word processing and spreadsheet applications; Ability to express oneself effectively, orally and in writing; and have excellent organizational skills.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with an employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC/CDA Office in Rota or may be obtained on CDA's website at www.developcnmi.com.

Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management in Rota.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Anthony Davis scores 52 points to lead West vs East

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Move over, Wilt. After 55 years, one of your records is no more.

Anthony Davis took care of that.

At the defense-free dunkfest that now serves as the NBA's All-Star Game, Davis scored a record 52 points and led the Western Conference past the Eastern Conference, 192-182 on Sunday night. He made 26 of 39 shots, scored 20 points in the fourth quarter and became the first player since Kobe Bryant in 2011 to win MVP honors on his home floor.

"It was amazing," Davis said. "That's what I wanted to do ... get the MVP for this crowd, for this city. This one definitely means a lot to me."

Davis was the star of stars in a game where the teams combined for more points than in any other All-Star contest. It came on a night when Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant provided a glimpse of the past, Giannis Antetokounmpo had more dunks—12—than his name has consonants and LeBron James became the first player to eclipse 300 points in an All-Star career.

Being linked to Wilt Chamberlain, who had 42 points in the 1962 game, only made it more special, Davis said.

"The next one I'm going to try to do is 100 points," Davis said.

He even outdid Westbrook, who had 41 points in just 20 minutes—which ordinarily would have been enough to merit him what would have been a third straight MVP award.

Not this time. It was Davis hoisting the trophy, thanks to his West teammates deferring to their host time and again.

"It shows our guys recognize what the weekend is



about," West coach Steve Kerr said.

Durant had a triple-double with 21 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. Stephen Curry added 21 points for the West. And after the game, word came that Sacramento is trading All-Star center DeMarcus Cousins to New Orleans as part of a deal that will involve

five players and two draft picks.

Cousins played only two minutes. The New Orleans fans will see much more of him soon enough.

Antetokounmpo had 30 points for the East. James scored 23—including a 3-pointer from the midcourt logo—while Cleveland team-

AP Western Conference forward Anthony Davis, of the New Orleans Pelicans, (23) lifts the Most Valuable Player trophy after the NBA All-Star basketball game in New Orleans, Sunday, Feb. 19, 2017.

mate Kyrie Irving added 22 points and 14 assists.

"There were a few too many transition baskets allowed," East coach Brad Stevens deadpanned. "But I think that was strictly coaching."

Davis became the story that overshadowed The Story coming into this game, that being the Durant-Westbrook whatever.

If any animus remains between Durant and Westbrook, it was hidden. They passed each other the ball in the pre-game layup line, and not long after Westbrook checked into the game the former Oklahoma City teammates provided one of the game's top highlights—a give-and-go, capped by Durant lobbing the ball to set Westbrook up for a dunk.

"OH MY GOD! WHAT JUST HAPPENED?" Curry shouted on the West bench, which moments later broke into celebration. Players jumped and threw hands skyward, Curry tossing a cupful of ice water onto a smiling Durant amid it all.

"It was a nice give-and-go, man," Westbrook said.

Added Durant: "It was a great basketball play. He was open so I threw him the lob. He can jump really high so yeah, good play."

Kerr said that set the West up for the rest of the night.

"I guess that's kind of the beauty of the game," Kerr said. "You just let the game break the ice, and that play, I

thought, broke the ice."

Westbrook scored 12 points—all on 3s—in a 63-second span late in the third quarter, coming off the bench and firing over and over and over again. And then he opened the fourth quarter with another 3, giving him 34 points in just under 14 minutes played to that point.

It looked like he was a cinch for MVP honors, until Davis scored 20 points in the fourth.

"He did a good job," Westbrook said, "and got it done."



TIP-INS

East: Irving also led the East in rebounds with seven. ... Isaiah Thomas scored 20 for the East. Kyle Lowry scored 19 points and DeMar DeRozan added 16. ... No East player logged more than 24 minutes.

West: Curry took cover in the third quarter, comically hitting the deck face-first as Antetokounmpo went in for yet another dunk. So later in the quarter, Antetokounmpo

went over Curry for a rebound slam - one that left Curry staring at the scoreboard for a replay.

CELEB WATCH

A huge roar greeted Jon Batiste, who performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" pre-game, when he started the song.

It wasn't for him.

That happened to be the moment when John Legend—the halftime performer—and Chrissy Teigen were shown at their sideline seats on the video screens around the arena. And a louder cheer came not long afterward when Beyonce and Jay Z got on-screen.

Among the other celebs in the seats: Guy Fieri, Dave Chappelle, Julius Erving, Alonzo Mourning, Bill Russell, Oscar Robertson and The Roots.

UP NEXT

The next All-Star Game is Feb. 18, 2018, in Los Angeles, which will host for a record sixth time.

NBA BRIEFS

AP Source: Pelicans acquiring Cousins in multi-player deal

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A person familiar with the situation says the Sacramento Kings have agreed to trade DeMarcus Cousins and Omri Casspi to the New Orleans Pelicans in exchange for Tyreke Evans, 2016 first-round draft pick Buddy Hield, Langston Galloway and first- and second-round draft picks this summer. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Sunday night because the trade is not official and has not been announced by either team. The deal pairs Cousins, a frontcourt All-Star from nearby Mobile, Alabama, with Anthony Davis, who on Sunday night was the 2017 All-Star MVP after scoring 52 points, breaking Wilt Chamberlain's 1962 record of 42 points.

Murray, Hield, lead World past US, 150-141 in Rising Stars

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Jamal Murray scored 36 points and Buddy Hield, a New Orleans Pelicans rookie, added 28 to the delight of the locals as the World squad beat the U.S. 150-141 on Friday night in the Rising Stars Challenge. The game featuring top rookies and second-year pros is the main event on the first night of NBA All-Star weekend. Murray, a Canadian and Denver Nuggets rookie out of Kentucky, went

9 of 14 on 3-pointers and was voted the game's MVP. Hield, a Bahamian, was 11-of-22 shooting overall, but just 3 of 12 from deep. Latvian Kristaps Porzingis of the New York Knicks added 24 points. Frank Kaminsky of the Charlotte Hornets scored 33 for the U.S. team and Karl-Anthony Towns added 24, highlighted by his dunk of Devin Booker's half-court lob.

NBA warns Texas over proposed 'bathroom bill'

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—The NBA has warned that Texas could be overlooked for future events because of a proposed "bathroom bill" targeting transgender people. The Texas legislation is similar to a North Carolina law that prompted the league to move the All-Star Game out of that state. It would require people to use bathrooms that correspond to the sex on their birth certificate. NBA spokesman Mike Bass says an environment where people are treated "fairly and equally" weighs heavily in deciding host locations. The NBA first made the statement last week, and the NFL has issued similar warnings. Texas has hosted three All-Star Games since 2006. Charlotte was originally supposed to host Sunday's All-Star Game. But the NBA moved the game to New Orleans after North Carolina adopted its "bathroom bill" last year.

Silver: NBA will keep eye on state's inclusion policies

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The NBA is continuing to monitor how states are handling laws regarding the protections of transgender people, with Commissioner Adam Silver warning that any less-than-inclusive policies will help the league decide where to hold All-Star Games going forward.

Silver, in his annual state-of-the-league address at All-Star Saturday night, said he has spoken with North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper—whose state was originally set to host this All-Star weekend—about the controversial and divisive HB2 law, one that the recently elected Cooper has said he wants repealed.

And for other states consid-

ering similar measures, Silver said the NBA will watch them as well.

"Our values, our league-wide values in terms of equality and inclusion are paramount to this league and all the members of the NBA family, and I think those jurisdictions that are considering legislation similar to HB2 are on notice that that is an important factor for us," Silver said. "Those values are an important factor for us in deciding where we take a special event like an All-Star Game."

Texas is considering a bill that would be similar to HB2. Its version is known as SB6, with top Republicans in that state recently unveiling a proposal that would ban transgender people from using the bathroom of their choice.

It is one of many issues

drawing the attention of both the league and its players, with many NBA stars—including LeBron James—speaking out repeatedly of late about the need for equality in society. And Silver, while not going as far to say that considering such a law would keep Texas from being considered for All-Star events in the future, made clear that the NBA is watching.

Next year's All-Star weekend is in Los Angeles. Texas last hosted an All-Star weekend in 2013.

"I'm not ready to draw bright lines," Silver said. "Clearly, though, the laws of the state, ordinances, and cities are a factor we look at in deciding where to play our All-Star Games."

Silver also addressed another particularly divisive issue

facing the country these days, the executive order signed by President Donald Trump that bans travel from seven predominantly Muslim nations. U.S. Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly said Saturday that Trump is working on a "streamlined" version of that order, and that the administration was surprised when U.S. courts blocked the original from implementation.

One of the seven nations affected by the order is Sudan, the homeland of NBA players Luol Deng and Thon Maker.

"It goes against the fundamental values and the fundamental ingredients of what make for a great NBA, and that is the very best in the world coming here," Silver said.

In other matters addressed by Silver on Saturday night:

Great expectations: Indians eye Series title after '16 run



GOOD-YEAR, Ariz.
(AP)—Above

the small cactuses and flowering plants dotting the concrete-blocked plaza outside the doorway to Cleveland's training complex is a new sign that serves as both a reminder and motivator.

"American League Champions 2016," it says.

The Indians have some unfinished business.

One swing away from beating the Chicago Cubs in an epic World Series last year, the Indians, who pumped up their payroll to nearly \$130 million by winning baseball's offseason with the surprise signing of free-agent slugger Edwin Encarnacion this winter, have their sights set on a return to the postseason—and this time winning it all.

"Everyone is very proud of what we accomplished last year, but everybody wants that one more run," Indians second baseman Jason Kipnis said Sunday. "Everybody wants to get back. We finally got a taste of that fruit, and we want to be there and we want to stay there."

With one of baseball's best starting rotations, deepest bullpens and a lineup counting on the return of All-Star Michael Brantley from injury, the Indians, who lost 94 games in 2012, are positioned to make another run at ending a World Series title drought stretching to 1948—now the majors' longest.

Cleveland has vaulted from powderpuff to powerhouse.

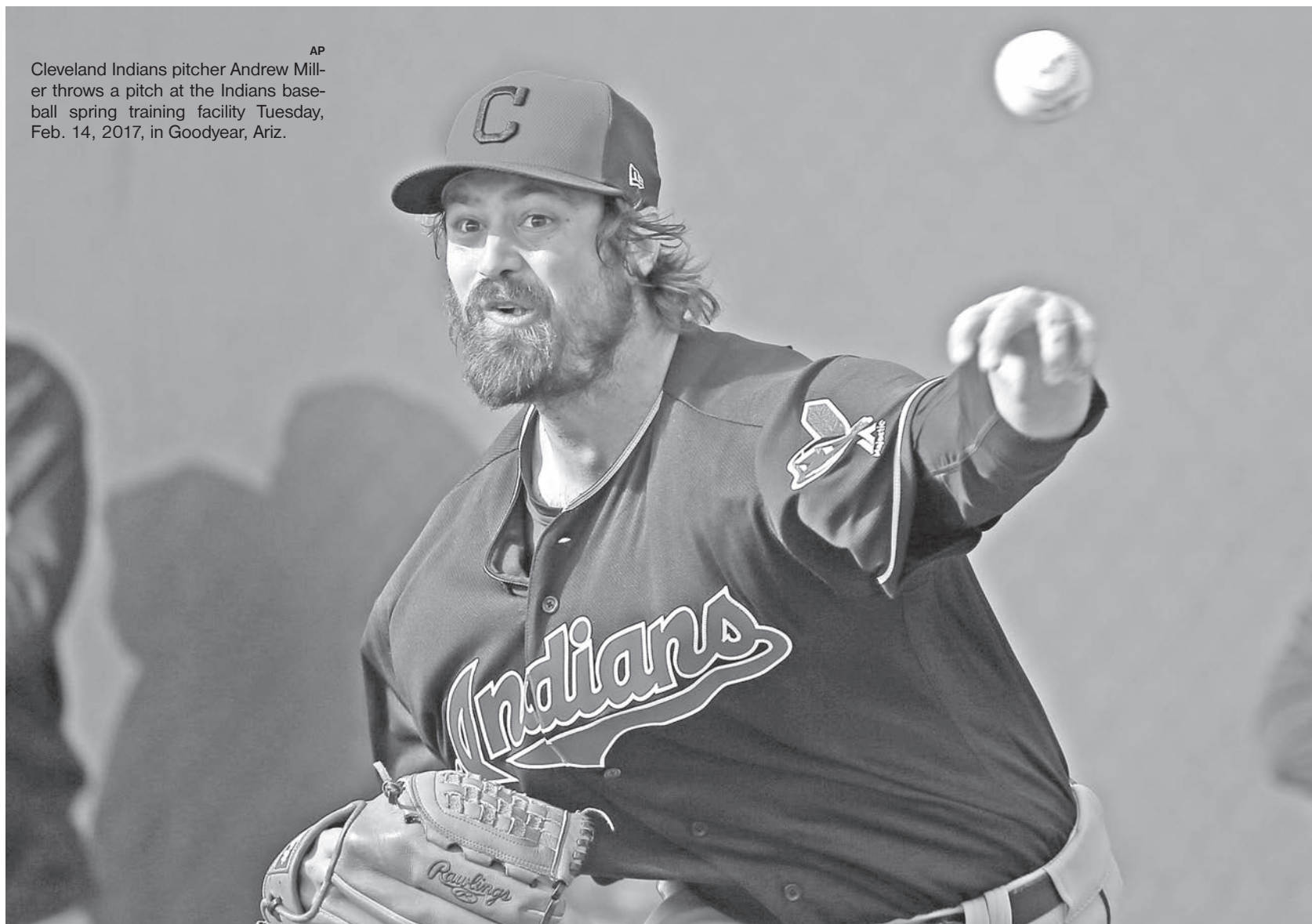
The Indians are determined to erase the memory of last year's Series when they gave away a 3-1 lead to the Cubs, who completed their comeback by winning an unforgettable Game 7 on Nov. 2 in extra innings. Chicago's victory not only triggered a celebration on the soggy grass in Progressive Field, but a national outpouring of affection for the lovable Cubbies and their fans, who waited 108 years to sip championship champagne.

There was obvious heartache in Cleveland. But also hope.

By going so far in the postseason despite not having Brantley, missing starters Carlos Carrasco and Danny Salazar and losing starter Trevor Bauer in the AL Championship Series when he sliced open his right pinkie while repairing a drone at home, the Indians showed resiliency, confidence and a glimpse of their potential.

They were one step away, and this year the Indians are better prepared to take it.

Kipnis pointed to the Kansas City Royals, who bounced back from losing Game 7 of the World Series in 2014 to winning it the following year,



AP
Cleveland Indians pitcher Andrew Miller throws a pitch at the Indians baseball spring training facility Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017, in Goodyear, Ariz.

as a model for the Indians.

"They knew they wanted to be right back there," he said. "They knew what it might take or fill in the hole from what they were missing the year before and they went out and did it. We're kind of hoping to follow that path and there are guys who now know what it takes and what they need to work on and what they need to kind of fix to get back there. It gives you that past experience that now you don't have to ask any questions. You have that experience yourself."

With a light rain falling and the nearby Estrella Mountains shrouded in low clouds, manager Terry Francona laid out his expectations during a team meeting on Sunday. Francona said he spent the past week stressing over how to deliver the proper message—"cutting and pasting the old-fashioned way, erasing"—as he felt he owed his players a clear outlook for 2017.

Francona wants his players to be proud of what they accomplished, but not to dwell upon the success or be satisfied. He reminded them not to cut corners or to take anything for granted.

As great as it was, last season is over.

"Our players have with their talent, and with the way they have played, people think they have a chance of doing some pretty good things," he said. "Now you gotta go out and do it and there's a way to

do it. ... if you got rewarded for last year, we would do it. Like if (baseball) said, 'Hey, man, you went to the World Series last year, you get five extra wins.' We'd take them.

But that's not how it's going to be."

The Indians were attentive while Francona spoke, and Kipnis said without being disrespectful, most of the players

knew the message already.

"Guys were almost not like, 'We know,'" he said. "But was like, 'Hey, we know. Let's get this-going-kind-of-thing.' It wasn't like we're too good for

it by any means. It was we're right there with you, and let's get back to work - right now. You could get that sense around the room, and I think it's a real good thing."

Yankees beat reliever Betances in final arbitration case

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.
(AP)—New York Yankees president Randy Levine feels Dellin Betances was the victim of "over the top demands based on very little sense of reality" by his representatives at Friday's arbitration hearing won by the team.

The Yankees beat Betances in the year's final salary arbitration case, and the relief pitcher will be paid \$3 million rather than his \$5 million request.

"What his agents did was make him a victim of an attempt to change a market place in baseball that has been well established for 30, 40 years, and I feel bad for him that he was used that way by his agents," Levine said Saturday after the decision was announced. "Five million dollars goes to elite closers, people who pitch the ninth inning and have a lot, a lot and a lot of saves."

"Dellin didn't have that record," Levine added. "He's a great, elite setup man, maybe one day he'll be a great closer, we hope so. The agent took him to a case in like me saying I'm not the president

of the Yankees, I'm astronaut. I'm not an astronaut and Dellin Betances is not a closer based on statistics."

Betances was prepared to move forward until Levine's comments.

"Saying I'm a victim in this whole process and saying how much they love me, but then they take me into a room and trash me for about an hour and a half," Betances said. "I thought that was unfair."

A right-hander who turns 29 in March, Betances figures to be primarily a setup man again following Aroldis Chapman's decision to return to the Yankees. New York gave Chapman an \$86 million, five-year contract—a record for a relief pitcher.

"They value me as a setup man, an eighth-inning guy, so is it selfish of me to say now, 'Hey guys, I just want come in for the eighth inning with no runners on all the time?'" Betances said. "That's not the player I am."

Betances struck out 126, leading big league relievers for the third straight year, and went 3-6 with a 3.08 ERA

and 12 saves in 17 chances.

"I've got to take care of myself," Betances said. "I've got to be a little smarter and be able to speak up."

Betances tried to find a middle-ground salary compromise.

"When I went into that room, I looked them in the eye and said 'We don't have to be in this room,'" Betances said. "There was no coming in the middle for them."

Manager Joe Girardi feels Betances will be fine in time.

"I think he will be able to bounce back, separate the business from the game, come out and still do his job," teammate CC Sabathia said.

The ruling gives teams an 8-7 edge in decisions this year, the most hearings since clubs won 10 of 16 decisions in 1994. Players won three of four cases last year. Teams lead 310-231 since salary arbitration began in 1974.

Arbitrators Steven Wolf, Dan Brent and Sylvia Skratek issued heard the case.

New York renewed Betances last year at the major league minimum of \$507,500. A setup man for

the first four months, he took over as closer after the trades of Chapman to the Chicago Cubs and Andrew Miller to Cleveland.

"Three million dollars was a great victory for Dellin Betances," Levine said. "He can now say he's the highest paid first-time setup man in the history of Major League Baseball."

Since defeating Mariano Rivera in 2000, the Yankees had only one arbitration hearing. In 2008, pitcher Chien-Ming Wang was awarded a raise from \$489,500 to the team's \$4 million offer instead of his \$4.6 million request.

"Hopefully we can have another decade or so before we get put in that position again," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "It's time to get back to work, that's it."

Betances is scheduled to throw off a mound during Sunday's first full-squad workout.

Opening-day starter Masahiro Tanaka is expected to throw batting practice for the first time.

How often have athletes snubbed the White House?

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP NATIONAL WRITER



The routine is familiar. The president makes a few bad jokes.

The championship-winning team presents the leader of the free world with a personalized jersey. Everyone smiles for the cameras.

Nothing political about that, right?

Not exactly.

In a divided nation, everything is political.

While presidents have been snubbed before, six players from the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots took it to another level by preemptively turning down an expected invitation from President Trump.

Rest assured, they won't be the last to mix sports and politics.

"The balance of power in professional sports now rests more with the performers than the owners," said Stephen Mosher, a professor of sports management and media at Ithaca College. "Without a labor force, (Patriots owner) Robert Kraft has nothing but an empty stadium. He has to let his employees make these political statements if he wants to win. He has to. There's too many different political views held by players in the National Football League."

"Actually," Mosher added, "I think it's quite refreshing."

The Patriots were part of the political discourse even before they dramatically rallied from 25 points down to beat the Atlanta Falcons in the first Super Bowl to go to overtime.



Kraft is a friend of the 45th president, and quarterback Tom Brady drew plenty of scrutiny when one of Trump's "Make America Great Again" caps was spotted in his locker at the start of the contentious presidential campaign.

Then, with the Patriots still in the midst of their Super Bowl celebration, tight end Martellus Bennett made it clear he had no intention of visiting Trump's White House.

Five teammates—defensive back Devin McCourty, running back LeGarrette Blount, defensive end Chris Long, linebacker Dont'a Hightower and defensive tackle Alan Branch—quickly followed suit. Most pinned their decision on political differences with the Republican administration.

Significant, to be sure.

But nothing new.

SNUBBING THE WHITE HOUSE

Since the tradition of inviting sports champions to the nation's most famous home really began to take off under President Reagan, some two dozen athletes have turned down the opportunity.

That list includes Brady, who didn't attend a 2015 celebration because of what the quarterback insisted was a "family commitment" but others speculated was because of some unflattering comments a spokesman for President Obama made about the Deflategate scandal.

For some, a trip to the White House was no big deal.

Larry Bird shrugged off an invitation from Reagan after the Boston Celtics won an NBA title, crabbily explaining, "If the president wants to see me, he knows where

to find me." After winning one of his six championships, Michael Jordan said he preferred to spend time with his family rather than hang with President George H.W. Bush. Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison turned down not one, but two chances to visit the White House, pointing out—quite correctly—that

In this Jan. 22, 2015, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady speaks at a news conference in Foxborough, Mass.

he wouldn't have gotten either of those invitations if his team had lost the Super Bowl.

Others cited political differences with those in power in declining.

Boston Bruins goaltender Tim Thomas declined to join the 2011 Stanley Cup champions on their White House visit, writing on social media that the government "has grown out of control, threatening the Rights, Liberties, and Property of the People."

Baltimore Ravens center Matt Birk passed on a chance to meet with Obama because of the president's support of Planned Parenthood. Golfer Tom Lehman was even more outspoken when rebuffing a president, calling Bill Clinton "a draft-dodging baby killer."

HOW IT ALL STARTED

In 1865, not long after the end of the Civil War and before professional baseball was even a

thing, President Andrew Johnson met with a pair of amateur teams, the Washington Nationals and Brooklyn Atlantics, according to the White House Historical Association. Given the tumultuous term he would serve after inheriting the office from Abraham Lincoln, Johnson probably figured he could use all the positive publicity he could get.

President Calvin Coolidge invited the hometown Senators for a visit after their dramatic seven-game victory in the 1924 World Series, which proved to be a prudent move. Washington may be first in war and first in peace, but it's still stuck on that one Series title.

More teams would visit the White House in the years to come, but Mosher points to Richard Nixon as the first president who really pushed for a connection to athletes of all stripes, with some speculating that it was a way to make up for his failed football dreams. Most notably, he began the practice of placing congratulatory phone calls right to the locker room while teams were right in the midst of their championship celebrations.

NMA general membership meeting Thursday

Northern Marianas Athletics will hold its annual membership meeting this Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room at 6pm.



At the meeting, NMA will select its officers and board members. The gathering is also intended to facilitate the adoption and approval of the NMA

Constitutional and by-laws as a not for profit organization as required by our Commonwealth law. NMA encourages interested individuals to participate and be involved in all activities and programs of NMA.

NMA is a member of Northern Marianas Sports Association and Oceania Athletics Association as

well as a voting member of the International Associations of Athletics Federation.

The current president of NMA is former representative Ramon A. Tebuteb and the secretary general is Robin Sapong.

NMA urges interested and committed persons to please attend and voice your comments at this important annual meeting. (PR)

HERAS

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ing Anika Camacho yesterday, 6-3, 6-2. Ferrer's three other victories in the division were against Helen Kim, 6-1, 6-1, Seo Hee Lee, 6-0, 6-0, and Hyejin Elliot (walkover).

In the girls U10 singles, Wang was also undefeated

to top the division. She first edged Boomee Park in the opening week of the tournament, 7-6, and then whipped Chelsea Kang last Sunday, 6-1 to clinch the division title. Park took the runner-up honors as she defeated Kang yesterday, 6-3, 6-1.

In the boys U10 singles, Lam posted a pair of convinc-

ing wins to gain the championship in his group. He dominated Sam Cope last Sunday, 6-1, and had another lopsided victory (similar score) against Nason Wessel yesterday to bring home the division championship. Wessel finished second in the division as he earlier shut down Cope, 6-0, in their last Saturday showdown.

while three in the second were made from McDonald's defensive lapses.

McDonald's showed some promise in the third when it collected four runs, however the Braves countered with five in the fifth inning for more cushion.

Tyler Sablan, Patrick Celis, and Taisei Desebel scored three runs apiece in the Braves' season debut victory, while L.J. Reyes had two runs and went 3-for-4 on a losing effort for McDonald's.

Joining McDonald's and the Comets on the win column in the opening day of the Major division were the Falcons,

who topped the Ol' Aces, 11-1.

The Falcons needed only four innings to beat the Ol' Aces, as the former's pitcher Keoni Serrano nearly threw a no-hitter for their team's early win via mercy rule. Serrano allowed a single in the third inning and gave up no earned run, while striking out nine batters.

On offense, the Falcons gained seven runs in the second inning to take full control of the match. Jonathan Renguul went 2-for-2 at bat, scored two runs, and had two RBIs and a double. Noah Aguon and Serrano also hit 2-for-2 and combined for five runs.

TDI

From Page 28

fourth canto against D&Q/CTSI's 21 markers to steal the victory. Raymond Velasco again top-scored for TDI with his 44 points, including 12 in the payoff frame, while Krigel Arreza and Allen Reyes delivered baskets in the home-stretch to complete the come-from-behind win.

Reyes' pair of charities broke the last deadlock, 83-81, while D&Q/CTSI bungled its chances to stay in the game with more than a minute left after taking hurried shots and committing an error in the inbound play.

Shawn Fujihara pulled up for a long jumper after Reyes' free throws and missed, while TDI grabbed the rebound and Arreza went for the finish with a fastbreak layup, 85-81. Another early shot from Ariel Jinang in the ensuing play returned pos-

session to TDI and Arreza hit a split after D&Q/CTSI was called for a foul. Now down by 5, 81-86, with 20.1 seconds left, D&Q/CTSI needed a quick basket to remain in contention, however, Ramsa Tenepere's inbound pass to Jinang was intercepted. Tenepere later gave up a preemptive foul on Arreza, who this time made both charities to peg the final score.

Meanwhile, in the first game, Mariana Resort had a jackrabbit start, taking a 32-11 lead against Konstrak Builders en route to another lopsided victory.

Mel Sakisat Jr. sizzled for 32 points for the unbeaten Mariana Resort, while his five other teammates also scored in twin digits as their squad more than doubled the output of the entire Konstrak Builders crew. Carlo Prado chipped in 21, Sandrew Kani tallied 16, Jun Fidelino made 14, and Euly James Ermitanio and Prince

Factor contributed 13 and 10, respectively.

Ramon Alfonso logged 19 to pace Konstrak Builders, which is still winless in five games.

First Game

Marianas Resort 121 — Sakisat 32, Prado 21, Kani 16, Fidelino 14, Ermitanio 13, Factor 10, F. Lifoifo 9, Kapileo 6, Asedillo 4.

Konstrak Builders 50 — Alfonso 19, Bernardo 17, Ronilo Sabidal 12, Lencin 2.

Scoring by quarters: 32-11, 60-24, 91-39, 121-50

Second Game

TDI 88 — Velasco 44, Allen Reyes 24, K. Arreza 8, Reyes 8, Barros 4, Lumayag 2.

D&Q/CTSI 81 — Rivera 17, Jinang 16, Tenepere 11, De La Torre 9, Echavez 8, Santos 6, Fujihira 4, Raho 4, Benavente 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-22, 36-41, 56-60, 88-81.

COMETS

From Page 28

ter reaching home off a passed ball. That was it for the Little Legals as Comets pitcher Jason Reyes threw a one-hitter the rest of the way and finished with 13 strikeouts in an impressive debut with the defending champions.

In the Braves-McDonald's tiff, the former got off to a strong start to set up the easy win.

The Braves scored nine runs in the first two innings and were never threatened from thereon. Four of the Braves' six runs at the bottom of the first came off passed balls,

2016-2017 Season SBA awards ceremony

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Saipan Billiards Association 2016-2017 Season finals most valuable player award recipients Zap Florentino, left, and Rolly Villanueva.



Thursday League third place finishers 9 Eleven 8-Black Black Ball.

Thursday League champions Warehouse Homeboyz.



Regular season MVPs Albert Pangilinan, left, and Rolly Villanueva.



The 9 Eleven MJD Warriors are the runners-up in the Thursday League.



The Black Ball were also the Thursday League's Budweiser Cup champions.



Pacific Amusement's Cecile Vivero presents a plaque of appreciation to Marpac's James Lee.



Team SCS were the recipients of the Thursday League sportsmanship award.



Anthony Davis
scores 52
points to lead
West vs East

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Great
expectations:
Indians eye Series
title after '16 run

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017

Comets prevail; Braves ease past McDonald's

Heras, Villanueva triumph

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Junior players Isabel Heras and Moris Villanueva led the champions circle in the 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic after topping their respective rivals yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

Villanueva clinched the men's open singles crown following a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Bobby Cruz in their morning title match, while Heras gained the women's open singles tiara after ruling the round-robin contest.

Villanueva, who got last year's U16 singles crown, finally brought home his first men's open singles championship in the annual tournament after losing in the semis last season and having a bridesmaid finish in 2015.

In the women's open singles, Heras earned a 2-0 mark in the division after beating Tania Tan yesterday afternoon, 6-3, 6-3. Heras also won against Malika Miyawaki in a similar score yesterday morning, while

Tan took runner-up honors in the division as she defeated Miyawaki last Saturday, 6-1, 6-1.

Meanwhile, J.C. Ferrer, Lahunn Lam, Hoo Wang, and Daniel Kang were also crowned champions in the 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic.

Kang bagged the boys U12 singles championship after downing Richard Steele in the finals, 6-3, 6-4. The top-seeded Kang advanced to the title match after eliminating Jaeyun Jung in their semis match last Sunday, 6-2, 6-1. The second-ranked Steele also took only two sets to oust Anthony Gregoire last Sunday, 6-2, 6-1, and set up the finals showdown between the Top 2 seeds in the draw. Jung went on to join Kang and Steele in the podium after outlasting Gregoire in the consolation game, 7-5, 4-6, 10-8.

In the girls U12 singles, Ferrer went 4-0 in the round-robin competition, securing the division title after beat-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A NSA Braves runner, right, gets ready to leave second base, while a McDonald's pitcher throws from the mound during the bottom of the fourth inning of their game in the Major division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champions Comets won their early rematch against the Little Legals, while the NSA Braves coasted to victory over McDonald's as competition in the Major division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball kicked off last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The first encounter between the Comets and Little Legals since their 2016 title showdown had the former posting a 4-1 triumph in a low-scoring game. The Comets, who cruised to a 12-2 victory over the Little Legals in last season's finale, scored late in the match to take their season-opening win.

Alvin Hocog and Jesus Sablan each hit an RBI single at the bottom of the fourth inning

to put the Comets in front, 2-1, after going scoreless in the first three. Sablan also made it home in the fourth off a Little Legals' miscue, while the Comets added one more run in the fifth off another booboo from their foe.

Earlier at the top of the first, Little Legals leadoff batter Anthony Dikito registered the first run of the 2017 season af-

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TDI rallies for fifth win; Mariana Resort still clean

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Top Development, Inc. and Mariana Resort kept the Top 2 spots in the team standings in Pool B of the JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League following their contrasting wins last Friday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Marianas Resort crushed Konstrak Builders in the curtain-raiser, 121-50, while TDI pulled off a come-from-behind 88-81 victory over D&W/CTSI in the nightcap. Mariana Resort is now 5-0 to stay on top of the eight-team



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Top Development, Inc.'s Krisgel Arreza, left, is fouled by D&W/CTSI's Ramsa Tenepere during the closing seconds of their game in the JEM/Mobil caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Pool B and two wins away from sweeping the regular season. TDI is done in the pool play as it finished with a 5-2 record (second best so far in the division) and it is likely to join Mariana Resort at the top half of the draw, going into the playoffs. The Top 4 finishers in the regular season will face the bottom four finishers in Pool B in the single-elimination playoff round.

TDI ended the regular season with a win after going all out in the fourth quarter, while D&W/CTSI had another meltdown despite leading at the end of each of the first three periods.

TDI scored 32 points in the

See TDI on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Isabel Heras serves to Tania Tan during their women's open singles match in the 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club courts.